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Nine young women to compete in 2018 Miss Marianas. PAGE 12

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Saipan Tribune

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 239
FRIDAY DECEMBER 1, 2017
www.saipantribune.com
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Okeanos Marianas to represent NMI at Yap Summit

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

For the first time in eight years, the CNMI will be represented at the annual Yap Canoe Festival at the Yap Living History Museum in Colonia.

The *Okeanos Marianas* will represent the Commonwealth in this year's event, according to Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport LTD.

See OKEANOS on Page 4

COLONIA, YAP—Workmen are preparing for the upcoming 8th Annual Yap Canoe Festival as they perform routine maintenance on the roofs of the traditional buildings at the Yap Living History Museum in Colonia. The festival will be held at the museum on Dec. 8-9 and will include traditional dances, local foods, a marketplace, demonstrations, special guests and many other activities. For more information, visit www.visityap.com. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'We don't want to lose economy'

By **BEA CABRERA**
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph Torres is going to Washington, D.C. Officials of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. are also headed there, bringing the hopes of many island businesses to obtain a reprieve on a planned cut to the number of foreign workers the CNMI can hire.

Meanwhile, many businesses in the CNMI are wringing their hands at possible losses if these lobbying efforts come to naught, describing it as a looming economic Armageddon for the islands.

"We do not want to lose this economy. That is why we are asking for the whole-hearted support of the community, elected officials, and business community to prevent this,"

See LOSE on Page 4

Habitual offender gets max of 30 years for sexual abuse

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Defendant's prior convictions includes accessory to murder in early '80s

A repeat offender with a prior conviction as an accessory to murder was resentenced Wednesday to 30 years in prison for sexually abusing a girl when she was just 16 years old in 2009.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho said he imposed the maximum possible sentence on Alfredo Evangelista Reyes so he will be unable to hurt anyone for the next 30 years.

The 55-year-old Reyes was directed to serve the 30 years in prison without parole. The judge cited Reyes' serious prior convictions that includes ac-

See HABITUAL on Page 4

DPL lottery awards homestead lots

The Department of Public Lands continues to award homestead lots based on lotteries being done month to month. Based on its latest listing it had a total of 40 vacant lots on Saipan that were ready for lottery draw.

On Oct. 31, DPL conducted a lottery and invited 20 homestead applicants to participate in the lottery; however, only seven applicants participated.

There was a second lottery draw on Nov. 30, with five participants.

The remaining 28 lots will be dis-

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CRIME OF THE WEEK

San Antonio robbery

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a robbery incident that occurred in Batto Place, San Antonio.

On Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017, at about 10:42pm, police met with the victim, a 28-year-old Asian male. The victim was driving his car east on Batto Place, when three local men walked in front of his car, forcing the victim to stop the car. The first suspect jumped into the victim's back seat and strangled the victim from behind, restraining the victim against the driver's seat. The second suspect opened the driver's door and grabbed the victim's cell phone and wallet that were in a cup holder. The second suspect took money from the wallet and the cell phone while a third suspect stood by the car watching the crime occur.

All three suspects ran east toward a barracks area, disappearing into the dark. The victim was unable to describe the three suspects due to poor visibility.

The items stolen included $160 cash, an iPhone 6 cell phone, and the victim's CNMI driver's license. The victim refused medical treatment.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or go to www.nmicrimestoppers.net. Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

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N. Korea crisis in 'dangerous new phase'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sablan

With North Korea recently firing a new type of ballistic missile into the waters off Japan, both the CNMI governor and CNMI delegate assured that there is no reason for alarm, despite the crisis being referred to as entering a "dangerous new phase."

Both Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) told *Saipan Tribune* that there is neither cause for concern nor alarm with the North Korean test.

Sablan, however, believes the North Korean crisis has reached "a dangerous new phase."

Citing a report from CNN, Sablan said that North Korea successfully tested its most powerful missile yet, "one that could potentially hit targets 'everywhere in the world,'" quoting U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis.

"While I still think that North Korea is very calculating with it moves, just enough to irritate but not enough to justify a response from the United States, this escalation serves nobody's purpose," said Sablan.

The missile, coined as Hwasong-15 by the country's state-run media, reached the highest altitude ever for a North Korean missile at 2,800 miles in the sky and being airborne a little less than an hour before landing in Japanese waters a little over 130 miles west of the Aomori Prefecture, CNN reported.

In a statement last Wednesday, Torres remains confident that the Trump administration and the U.S. military "will continue to do what it can and must to protect our safety and security."

He added that his office received "official notification" that no imminent threat exists for both Guam and the CNMI.

"…We have been receiving the latest information from Guam about the recent events," Torres said. "I will remain in close contact with our military officials, the federal government, and our local emergency first responders."

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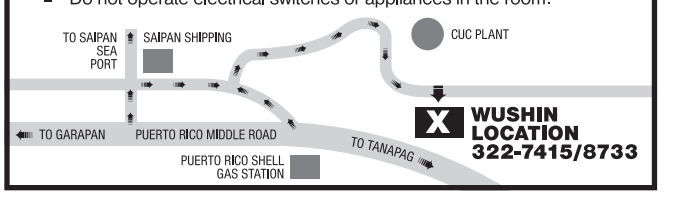

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LOSE

From Page 1

said Alex Sablan, who chairs the NMBAC.

U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services had announced last week that it would cut 3,000 slots from the 12,998 workers allowed last fiscal year under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program, or CW program.

NMBAC is proposing amendments to the immigration provisions of Public Law 110-229, which placed CNMI immigration under federal control and gave birth to the CW program in 2009.

"The officers of NMBAC is set to be in Washington, D.C. from Dec. 11 to 15 because we want a conversation with USCIS and leadership in D.C. about the effects of reducing this CW number because this is the start of the downfall of our economy, of our people, and we need them to understand the implications," Sablan said.

"We have a list of provisional changes to the actual written legislation that we would like to happen with respect to P.L. 110-229," he added.

Sablan said that NMBAC believes the amendments they are proposing will make P.L. 110-229 more responsive and viable to the growing economy of the CNMI.

"First, we are asking for an increase in CW [slots] to 18,000. This is not NMBAC determining this; this was after a good number of months, sitting down with current leadership, understanding what is in the pipeline and development that is coming forward in the Commonwealth. What we tried to do is implement a 15,000 count for Saipan and 3,000 for Tinian and Rota to ensure that their economy is protected," he said.

Alex Sablan, chairman of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., is joined here by NMBAC members Perry Inos Jr., Viola Alepuyo, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Velma Palacios, and Gloria Cavanagh.

BEA CABRERA

"Second, we are asking for 10 years—Dec. 31 2019, to Dec. 31, 2029—with the caveat that we have a five-year U.S. Government Accountability Office report that determines the continued need to extend the program. We would reinstate the discretionary authority to the Department of Homeland Security and [U.S.] Department of Labor secretaries to review the need and continue the program as well," Sablan said.

"We want to revert back to the administration and not have continual congressional passage of this provision. We are asking for the 10 [years] and an additional 10 as the secretaries see fit," Sablan added.

"Third deals with the parole program. Dealing with the parole program is a very temporary issue because currently, it could be changed at the drop of the hat by the signature of the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and is not somewhat permanent like the visa waiver program for tourists from other countries like Japan, Korea, Hong Kong," Sablan said.

"We want to establish a firm footing in our tourism market and China being a very big component of that. … This requires an agreement between the governors of Guam and the CNMI called bifurcation, where Guam and the CNMI governors will agree to separate the system," Sablan added.

While it is currently called the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program, Sablan said this will be divided into the CNMI visa waiver program and Guam visa waiver program.

"They will agree on certain countries for the approval of the Department Homeland Security, having the Philippines, Taiwan, or Vietnam or the CNMI and adding China as an official visa waiver country. Through bifurcation, we believe we will find firm footing in our ability to make the system more permanent versus a parole program," he said.

"Fourth, we want a prevailing wage for the actual CW visa. The rationale in this process is that all visas today in the USCIS system already require a prevailing wage to be implemented, whether they are H1 or H2. You have to have a prevailing wage attached to it so why not the CW?"

"There is an idea that foreign national workers experience suppressed wages in the Commonwealth, so the [best] way…is to implement a prevailing wage for CW that will make it equal for all workers in the CNMI," Sablan said.

"Another provision we feel is important for the Com-

Continued on Next Page

DPL

From Page 1

tributed via lottery draw this December, according to a DPL statement yesterday.

DPL attributes the delay in issuing the lots to the outdated contact information of applicants and applicants cannot be reached by the information listed in their applications.

The average processing time from DPL issuing notices of lottery draw to the time DPL receives the undeliverable notice is about 30 days. If the applicant does not respond, DPL contacts the next applicant on the list. Therefore, these unreachable applicants are switched from the active list to the inactive list, but remain eligible.

Additionally, DPL conducts land interest research to determine if applicants already have a title or interest in a parcel of land. Applicants or spouses of applicants with land interest are disqualified from the homestead program.

Due to non-compliance with permit terms, DPL continues to revoke homestead lots, allowing DPL to re-issue out those vacant lots via lottery.

DPL is currently reviewing applications submitted in 1992.

DPL encourages all pending homestead applicants to update their homestead applications, which will determine eligibility and priority.

At present, there are 2,577 pending village homestead applicants for Saipan.

DPL Secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo said that DPL receives a large number of undeliverable mail to homestead applicants.

"These letters inviting applicants to update their files are returned to DPL. Since these applicants are unreachable, we cannot proceed with updating their applications and issuing a homestead lot, but they remain on the inactive listing.

"I encourage all homestead applicants to meet with our Homestead Division and update records including mailing address, phone numbers, marital status, birth certificates, etc."

The next proposed homestead site is As Gonno, Saipan. DPL awarded the request-for-proposal for redesign of the proposed homestead subdivision to GHD Engineering.

Initially, the subdivision would have accommodated roughly 228 lots between 800 and 1,000 square meters per lot, but in an effort to reduce backlog in pending applicants, the lots will be reduced to 600 square meters because As Gonno is sewer system capable and homesteaders will not need a septic tank or leaching field.

This means the As Gonno subdivision is estimated to accommodate 360 families on Saipan.

"DPL wishes to issue more homestead lots but is constitutionally prohibited from using lease revenue for infrastructure improvements, a prerequisite to construct a dwelling," said Teregeyo.

DPL is required to remit all funds minus operational expenses to the Marianas Public Land Trust; DPL cannot utilize these funds for infrastructure-related costs.

DPL does work actively to identify suitable land for homestead development, but infrastructure such as water and power remain a prerequisite for homesteaders to construct a dwelling.

DPL continues to lobby for homestead infrastructure appropriation. Letters have been sent to the Legislature requesting for financial assistance for homestead infrastructure for homestead subdivisions on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

Until funds are appropriated, delays will continue in the development of more homestead sites.

Other proposed sites that require infrastructure include I'denne, Saipan; Marpo Heights, Tinian; and Finafa, Rota.

DPL also executed a contract with SSFM CNMI, LLC on Aug. 11, 2017, to conduct the CNMI Comprehensive Public Land Use Plan. The plan will also identify suitable sites for homestead, among other uses, that are consistent with Public Law 15-2.

For more information about DPL, visit www.dpl.gov.mp or its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DPLCNMI. ***(PR)***

HABITUAL

From Page 1

cessory to murder.

"[He] is a danger to the community and especially to the children of the CNMI and parole would not serve the interest of justice," Camacho said.

Reyes was given credit for time served. He was ordered to register as a sex offender.

Camacho said that Reyes used the information that the victim was having sex with another family member as leverage to impose his own desires on her. The judge noted that all three sexual abuse incidents happened at a beach or jungle areas.

Chief Prosecutor Michele Harris had recommended a sentence of 31 years imprisonment. Attorney Charles Reyes Jr., the court-appointed counsel for Reyes, recommended a sentence of eight years in prison.

The 30-year prison term is the same sentence that Camacho imposed on Reyes during the first sentencing in 2014. Yet even this lengthy sentence from his prior convictions failed to impress upon Reyes to be a law-abiding citizen, Camacho said.

On Dec. 13, 2013, a Superior Court jury unanimously found Reyes guilty of three counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Camacho, who presided over the misdemeanor charges, found him guilty of three counts of assault and battery.

On Jan. 22, 2014, Camacho sentenced Reyes to the maximum sentence of 30 years imprisonment. Reyes appealed, asking the CNMI Supreme Court to reverse his conviction and sentence.

The CNMI Supreme Court affirmed the conviction in April 2016, saying there was ample evidence supporting the conviction, but vacated the sentence and remanded the matter to the Superior Court for resentencing.

Reyes sexually abused the girl at Laulau Beach in May 2009, at Coral Ocean Point beach in September 2009, and in the jungle area near Hawaiian Rock Co. in December 2009.

Reyes has 11 children from four different relationships.

Reyes served 10 years in prison for accessory to murder in the first degree.

The murder happened on Saipan in early 1980s when he and a man beat up another man. While the victim was on the ground, he was fatally shot twice in the head, according to court records.

OKEANOS

From Page 1

managing director Emma Perez.

Although there have been a few Commonwealth individuals who have attended the summit in the past, this will be the first year that a CNMI canoe will join the festival, and this will be the first year a crew from Saipan will sail to the summit, she said.

Pete Perez, executive director of 500 Sails, which runs the *Okeanos Marianas,* will be presenting at the 8th Yap Canoe Summit on the topic, "Beyond Restoration: Building a Future on Ancient Foundations" on Dec. 7.

As an alternative to air travel and to take the opportunity to make the sail to Yap, the *Okeanos Marianas* will be taking him to represent the growing family of canoes in the CNMI.

The Yap Canoe Summit & Festival will take place on Dec. 7, 8, and 9. "The Pacific-wide revival of oceangoing traditional canoes continues to grow as knowledge is shared and more and more canoes take to the ocean," said Perez.

According to Perez, he was also invited to speak at the summit last year but was unable to go due to flight issues so Perez thought it would be a wonderful idea that the *Okeanos Marianas* will take him and the crew to this year's summit.

Perez estimates it would take approximately six days to travel from Saipan to Yap.

Joining Pete Perez and his staff, Jason Aldan and Michael Finey, for the voyage is master navigator Sesario Sewralur, son of grand master navigator Mau Piailug, Steve Tawake, India Tabellini, Andrea Carr, and Leo Pangelinan.

Sewralur will also be presenting at the Canoe Summit, representing the Micronesian Voyaging Society.

Tawake of Fiji will be using traditional navigation under Sesario's tutelage, Tabellini of Tahiti will be serving as watch captain, Carr will serve as watch captain, Pangelinan will be training as crew; and Perez, Aldan, and Finey, will all be getting to experience and learn open ocean sailing in preparation for taking out the 500 Sails canoes that will be in the waters early next year.

Okeanos Marianas will soon be registered as a commercial vessel here in the CNMI. The Okeanos Foundation supports its operation for the purpose of transporting people and cargo between Saipan and neighboring islands in the Northern Marianas.

The Okeanos Foundation for the Sea is dedicated to facilitating sustainable, fossil fuel-free sea transportation by building traditional Polynesian canoes or *vaka motus*, and applying modern materials to traditional boat-building techniques.

Okeanos' *vaka motus* are internationally certified for open ocean commercial use and equipped with solar panels and coconut oil engines. Okeanos Foundations help to establish local, community-led businesses that generate revenue for their communities while restoring indigenous maritime traditions.

monwealth is to have tools to ensure that U.S. citizens are getting jobs first and foremost. It is a same tool that the governor of Guam has. Guam Department of Labor reviews documents, approves them to make sure that there is no U.S. citizen qualified worker, and they send it along to USCIS for processing for particular H1, H2 visa," Sablan added.

According to Sablan, NMBAC would like to have the same process implemented by the CNMI governor through the CNMI Secretary of Labor.

"This will ensure that U.S. citizens get job placements first. This will also ensure that we are utilizing the CW visa system, recognizing quota that we are given and not shortchanging the hospital and other services, industries, and even the small mom-and-pop stores of the Commonwealth," he said.

Sablan said that they started a signature drive effective yesterday where they will give out packets and ask for the public's assistance to help answer and review the packets and the information gathered will be used by NMBAC going to D.C.

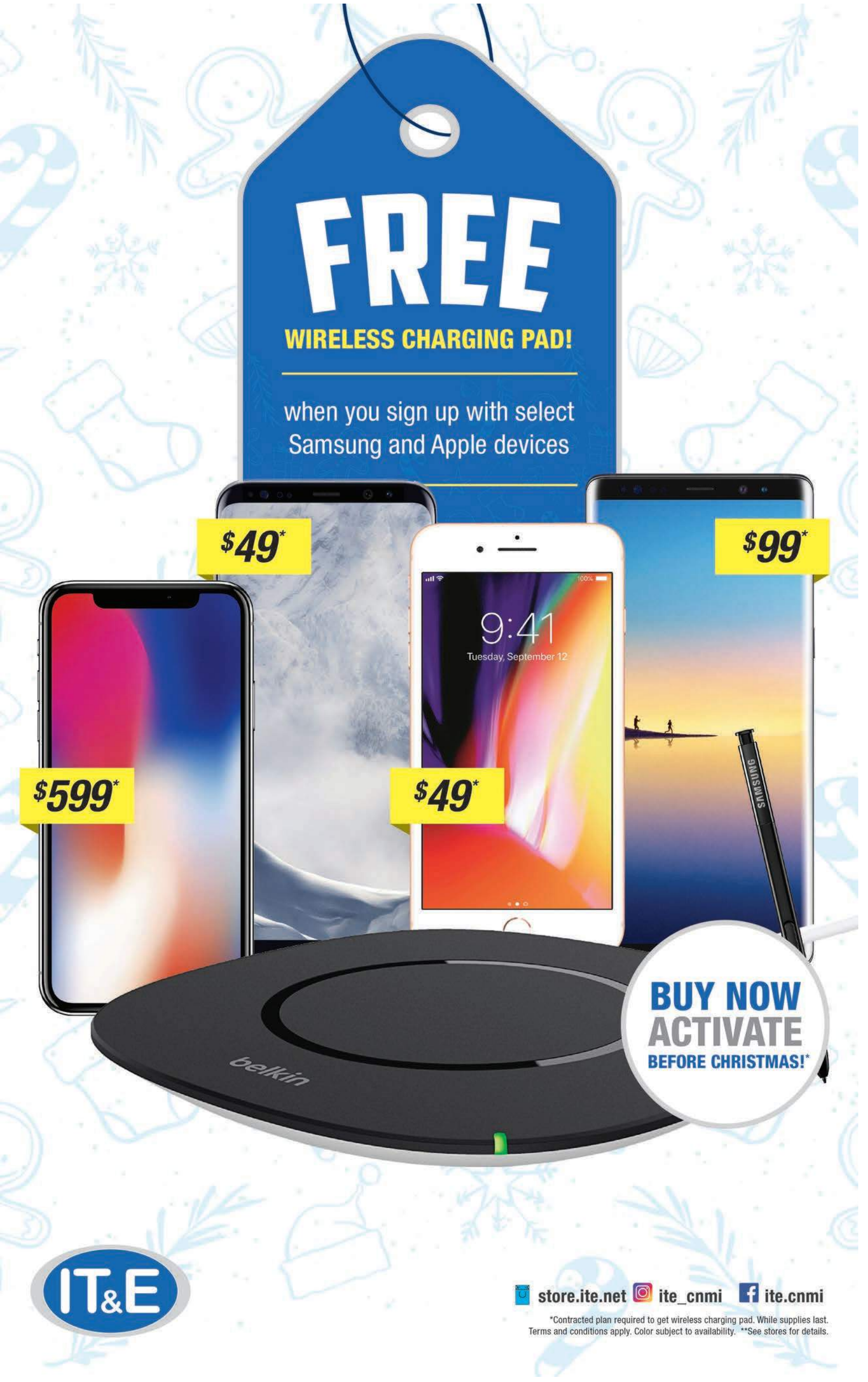
"We are hopeful that through this message, this information that we are providing in the signature drive will help the community understand how serious the reduction is," he said.

"We hope to accumulate 20,000 or more signatures from the community. We have a survey for the business community, asking questions how the reduction will impact their business economically and a joint resolution from the House and Senate that is set to be heard next week," he added.

Sablan urges the public to support the signature drive.

"We asking each and everyone in the CNMI that if you believe in this economy, if you see a future for the CNMI, this process will give us enough support when we go to D.C. and present thousands of signatures that we in the CNMI are speaking with one voice," he said.

An NMBAC signature drive booth was at the Thursday Night Market.



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Alarzar and Lee top Pacifica art contest

Saipan Community School student Seung Won Lee and Northern Marianas College student John Alarzar were both named winners of their respective categories in the annual 2017 Pacifica Art Contest.

The contest was divided into two categories: Category 1 for ages 6-11 and Category 2 for ages 12-17. Each category was based on the age of the student at the time of the first submission.

Seung Won Lee took first place in Category 1 while John Alarzar took first place in Category 2.

Both students received a cash prize and a set of art supplies.

John Alarzar, second from right, is presented with a ceremonial check after being named a winner in the annual 2017 Pacifica Art Contest.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Unlike in previous years, the contest this year was based on artwork submitted from the last three years. Artwork pieces that did not place in previous competitions were automatically submitted for this year's contest.

Each artwork piece was judged on creativity and originality, quality of the art piece, clarity of the theme "Rest assured it's Christmas," and presentation.

This year's judging panel included Imperial Pacific International's executive director of Corporate Social Responsibility Geri Dela Cruz, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Library executive director Erlinda Naputi, and former Saipan Community School teacher O'Ronia Sikayun.

"Judging these photos were definitely a challenge since all the artists displayed great talent. Everyone is definitely a winner," said Dela Cruz. "I'd like to commend Pacifica Insurance Underwriters for their continued commitment in this event. Not only does it encourage participation and unity among our student, but it definitely supports art on our islands," she added.

Saipan Community School student Seung Won Lee.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Insurance executive vice president Shirley Sablan was grateful "to all participating artists for making this year's contest an overwhelmingly successful one. It was not an easy task for our judges this year."

Sablan officially confirmed that next year's art contest will be made open to new submissions.

The winning artwork and company top picks can be viewed at www.pacificains.com/artcontest.

For more information about the contest, call Samantha Sikayun at 670-234-6267/7722/7310 or email piui@pacificains.com. Pacifica Insurance is located at the Joeten Center in Susupe. ***(PR)***

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OAG welcomes two new lawyers

The CNMI Office of the Attorney General announced yesterday the addition of two new assistant attorneys general, Robert "Charlie" Lee, who joins the Criminal Division, and Colby Stewart, who is based at the office's Civil Division.

"We are excited to have Charlie and Colby on our team. With their legal experiences and knowledge, I am confident they will both be a valuable asset to the office and the CNMI community," said Attorney General Edward Manibusan.

Lee has over 13 years as an experienced attorney with a main concentration on criminal prosecution. Throughout his years as an attorney serving both the public and private sector, his profession has taken him to areas in the Pacific where he practiced as an assistant attorney general for the Office of the Attorney General in American Samoa in 2009 to 2011 and, most recently, as an interim special prosecutor for the Republic of Palau Office of the Special Prosecutor.

Lee

Stewart

Stewart, on the other hand, clerked for the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Municipality of Anchorage (Alaska), and served as the editor-in-chief of *Animal Law Review*. Following law school, Stewart moved to the Commonwealth to serve as a staff attorney at the Law Revision Commission, where he aided in the codification of statutes and regulations, edited and composed legal publications, presented professional development trainings, worked on court policies and procedures, and assisted the Judiciary's general counsel on a wide-range of legal matters.

Lee earned his juris doctor from Samford University, Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama and obtained a bachelor of arts degree in Organizational Communication from the University of Central Florida. Lee was sworn in on Nov. 28, 2017, by Chief Justice Alexandro Castro.

Stewart earned both a J.D. and an LL.M. in Environmental, Natural Resource, and Energy Law at Lewis and Clark Law School and received a bachelor of arts, *cum laude* majoring in History and minoring in Philosophy. He is licensed to practice in the Commonwealth. ***(PR)***

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TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- EDMOND K. RABAULIMAN and the ESTATE OF AUGUSTA S. RABAULIMAN, Defendants.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0138

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 6, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the rights, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 011 G 75, containing an area of 770 square meters, more or less, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 03, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4411, dated December 16, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 22, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of October, 2017:

MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Cristina Laxamana, Petitioner, vs. Villamor T. Bondoc, Respondent,) FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0428 **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 298, P.O. Box 10000 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 16th day of November, 2017.
/s/
Clerk of Court

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CIVIC LX-P	HH301571	GREEN	$3,000
CIVIC SPORT	HU231449	WHITE	$3,500
HRV EX 2WD	HM716374	SILVER	$3,000
HRV EX 2WD	HM714229	BLACK	$3,500
HRV EX AWD	HM719801	BLACK	$3,000
ACCORD SPORT	HA192138	STEEL	$4,000
RIDGELINE RT FWD	HB007371	STEEL	$5,000

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	STOCK #	COLOR	DISCOUNT
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MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE	H5356545	RED	$4,000
F150 XL 2WD	GKF37860	WHITE	$4,000
F150 XL 2WD	HKC68426	WHITE	$4,000
F150 XL 2WD	HKC68428	WHITE	$5,000
F150 XLT SPORT	HFA49314	RED	$6,000
EXPLORER XLT SPORT	HGC16261	BLACK	$4,000
EXPLORER XLT 4WD	GGB38168	WHITE	$6,000

NISSAN

	STOCK #	COLOR	DISCOUNT
ROGUE S FWD	HW130762	BLUE	$3,000
ROGUE SPORT S 2WD	HW015525	SILVER	$3,000
QUEST SV FWD	H9170425	WHITE	$4,000
FRONTIER SV 4WD	HN762025	WHITE	$4,000
ALTIMA SV FWD	HC126488	SILVER	$4,000
PATHFINDER S 2WD	HC672614	WHITE	$5,000
TITAN SV 4WD	HN549603	SILVER	$6,000
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KIA

	STOCK #	COLOR	DISCOUNT
SOUL LX FWD	H7496802	SILVER	$2,000
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SOUL LX FWD	G7871787	GREEN	$2,500
RIO FWD	G6591553	RED	$2,500
RIO LX FWD	H6034826	YELLOW	$3,000
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MAFEA induction, Christmas party

The Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects will induct its officers and board members and hold its Christmas party on Dec. 3, 2017, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, starting at 12pm (lunch). All Filipino engineers and architects in the CNMI are invited and encouraged to attend and be part of this occasion. ***(PR)***

VA benefits counselor to visit Saipan

A benefits counselor of the U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic on Dec. 15, from 9:30am to 3:30pm. The benefits counselor will be available to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process.

The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg. Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan.

To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. ***(PR)***

Guam detonation training today

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians with the 36th Civil Engineer Squadron at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, will be detonating munitions as part of routine training at the Tarague Basin today, Dec. 1, from 9am to noon.

The training will be confined to a cordoned portion of Tarague Beach, and may produce loud noises. The training is not expected to affect the area outside the security perimeter. ***(PR)***

Bank of Guam holiday schedule

■ Friday, Dec. 8: All Guam and CNMI branches of the Bank of Guam will be closed. The Customer Service Department will also be closed from 3pm to midnight.

■ Monday, Dec. 25: All branches will be closed. The Customer Service Department will be closed beginning Sunday, Dec. 24 at noon, all day Christmas Day, reopening after midnight on Dec. 26, 2017

■ Monday, Jan. 1, 2018: All branches will be closed. The Customer Service Department will be closed beginning Sunday, Dec. 31, at noon, all day New Year's Day, reopening after midnight on Jan. 2, 2018. ***(PR)***

Personalized Christmas ornaments for sale in fundraiser

Team KOKA presents the second year of its Tree of Angels project. Personalized Christmas ornaments are being sold for $5 in memory of beloved ones. The ornaments will be displayed on Christmas trees beginning Dec. 10 at the San Jose Church. If interested in helping with this fundraiser, feel free to buy from any of the Team KOKA members or contact teamkokacnmi@gmail.com or Frances Diaz at 433-3800. ***(PR)***

'Glow, Walk, Run, or Wheel' on Tinian

The VOICES of the CNMI-Tinian Chapter presents its annual "Glow, Walk, Run, or Wheel" on Saturday, Dec. 9, starting at 5:30pm at the Tinian Teen Center. This will be the fourth year for the VOICES signature event.

Registration is $10 per participant and each participant will receive a signature T-shirt designed by The Undeniable and a raffle ticket.

Raffle tickets will be sold at $1 each during the event or can be purchased early from any of the team members. For information, contact Jan Barcinas at 433-3826 or Monika Diaz at 433-3800 or email monikahdiaz@gmail. ***(PR)***

Innovation Summit on Dec. 5

The Commonwealth Development Authority and the CNMI Department of Commerce are hosting an Innovation Summit on Dec. 5 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall, from 9am to 2pm, featuring John McElligott and David Rixter. This summit is workforce development related, augmented with new technology that is now developing rapidly. It is free.

There will also be a small gathering on Dec. 4, 2017, at the American Memorial Park Indoor Theatre from 5pm to 8pm, during which McElligott will be making a presentation to potential stakeholders as well as to any other interested individuals.

Members of the community, both public and private, are encouraged to participate. ***(PR)***

MIFICPA to host Excel workshop

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, is inviting all members to this year's workshop on advanced Microsoft Excel on Dec. 2, 2017, from 8:30am to 12pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Registration starts at 8am.

There will be a $5 fee to cover incidentals. Non-members are welcome for a $15 seminar fee. Seats are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Most importantly, please bring your own laptop.

For reservation and more details, check the MIFICPA Facebook page or call or email any of the officers: Angie Mamaril at 783-1857 (angiehmamaril@yahoo.com); Lois Manese at 286-8663 (eloisa_manese@yahoo.com); Cris Bucalig at 287-0945 (cris_bong@yahoo.com) or Gloria Balila at 989-6284 (mgmbalila@yahoo.com). ***(PR)***

Power interruption on Dec. 2

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017, from 5:30am to 10:30am to allow line crew of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to safely replace three wooden power poles with concrete poles along Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan in San Antonio. Areas to be affected include Kiya 2 (2nd partial), which covers San Antonio Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan (Batto Pl., Bunita Pl., Aluda Pl., and Asuli Pl.). No water well will be affected. Sewer lift stations that will be affected are: A-1, A-2, & A-16. ***(CUC)***

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Nine young women to compete in 2018 Miss Marianas

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At nine candidates in all, the newest edition of the Miss Marianas Pageant has gathered its largest group of contestants who will be vying for the 2018 Miss Marianas tiara.

According to Stellar Marianas president Laila Boyer, this is the biggest group of contestants yet in the pageant's history. They are Celine Cabrera, 22; Kaysha Cruz, 18; Eden Connor, 18; Leisha Deleon Guerrero, 18; Cris Obaldo, 21; Jaiden Santos, 19; Kaylanie Santos, 18; Chloe Salvosa, 18; and Maricris Zapanta, 24.

This year's theme will be "Enchanted."

"The pageant theme… celebrates the beauty and enchantment of our local forests, its diverse wildlife and the cultural traditions that weave around it," Boyer said.

Many of the candidates are new to concept of modeling but are determined to do their best.

According to Cabrera, she chose to join the pageant to represent the island; if she wins, she plans to promote the island and its culture.

Connor wishes to be more involved with community events. She said she would love to visit other islands while bringing the culture of Saipan with her to bring the islands together.

Obaldo took on the challenge of pageantry and put herself out there. If she wins, she plans to involve herself in more community events.

Salvosa believes the experience will boost her confidence and hopefully inspire other women. She plans to advocate for women empowerment in the Commonwealth.

Santos joined Miss Marianas for the experience and to be given the opportunity to represent the Commonwealth. She believes in empowering women and ensuring that every woman in the Commonwealth knows her worth.

Kaylanie Santos wants to experience something new in the world of pageantry.

Zapanta has always wanted to get out of her comfort zone and make a difference in her community. She hopes to promote fitness for everyone.

Deleon Guerrero is hoping her experience would build her confidence and expand her relationship with the community.

Cruz hopes that joining Miss Marianas will widen her understanding of the islands and its people.

According to Boyer, she and the Stellar Marianas committees has pulled out all the stops for the event. The pageant is set for February 2018. An exact date and venue has yet to be confirmed.

'We need to educate Congress about the CNMI'

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Aside from lobbying for amendments to Public Law 110-229, the law that gave federal jurisdiction over CNMI immigration and the birth of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program, the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. also wants to educate Congress about the labor situation in the CNMI.

The NMBAC officers are set to go to Washington, D.C. for a series of meetings from Dec. 11 to 15, 2017

According to NMBAC board member Marian Aldan-Pierce, a big part of the trip is explaining the situation in the CNMI. "Before P.L. 110-229 became law in 2008, probably a lot of the staffers who were a part of that are gone. One of our goals is to go to Washington and educate the ones there today about our history."

"We have a different history, unlike anybody else. They should understand that this is not about immigration but about our economy. But what they are doing is that they are put us together in the national debate and that's unfair because all of the workers are here legally," she added.

Aldan-Pierce said that CW-1 workers are here at the invitation of the business community and the CNMI.

"For foreign workers to get lumped into the same category as illegal aliens, that's terribly unfair. So that is one thing that the people in D.C. need to understand and I don't think they do," Aldan-Pierce said. "It is very important when we go there to show that there is a difference so treat us differently."

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JOE HILL, Esq.
HILL LAW OFFICES
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Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

GEMMA TARROZA-BATUSIN, Petitioner, Versus NORBERTO M. BATUSIN Respondent.) FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0469) SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 3rd day of October, 2017
/s/
Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Legal Counsel's Review of Robert's Rules of Order
  D. Election of Officers
  E. Adoption of Agenda
  F. Adoption of Minutes
    1. March 7, 8, 13 & 15, 2017 Regular Board Meeting
    2. March 21, 2017 Special Board Meeting
    3. March 29, 2017 Special Board Meeting
    4. April 11, 2017 Special Board Meeting
    5. April 19, 2017 Regular Board Meeting
    6. May 9, 2017 Special Board Meeting
  G. Correspondence
II. Public Comments**
III. Management Reports
  A. Executive Director
  B. Chief Financial Officer
  C. Legal Counsel
IV. Executive Session***
V. Announcement
VI. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

1st Marianas International Film Festival

Dec.6-8, 2017

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVII, Issue No. 239

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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The bodies finally caught up with the 'Butcher of Bosnia'

By PEGGY O'DONNELL
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"They are lying! You are lying!" Those were the words Nov. 22 of former Bosnian Serb Gen. Ratko Mladic, a defendant who could not contain his anger at being held to account for his crimes.

As a judge read aloud the final trial judgment of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Mladic, a man once known as the "Butcher of Bosnia," demanded that he stop reading the list of convictions: guilty of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. "I am very distraught," Mladic shouted in the courtroom in The Hague in the Netherlands. "Everything that you have said is pure lies. Shame on you."

Yet as guards pulled his hands behind his back and removed him from the courtroom, the shame was on Mladic, a man who used to boast he would choose suicide over being tried in a foreign court. In part, the verdict meant that the bodies finally caught up with him. His conviction rested on a near-tidal wave of evidence: hundreds of witness statements, documents, public statements, recorded phone calls and television appearances.

But it was the bodies of the people he had killed that gave life to his trial. Although digital techniques are changing the nature of war crimes investigations, Mladic's conviction is a reminder that the bodies of victims have a unique power even in death.

Mladic's bodies started haunting him more than two decades ago. On Aug. 10, 1995, the 15-member United Nations Security Council met for an emergency closed-door session. Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the U.N., clicked through eight photographs, each blown up on a projector screen.

One photo, from July 7 of that year, showed an empty, grassy field in an area 20 miles from the Bosnian city of Srebrenica. A second, from July 27, showed the same road, but the field was unrecognizable, crisscrossed by heavy machinery tracks and pockmarked with piles of dirt and newly dug holes. Together, they formed a two-picture flipbook of mass murder: before and after.

Despite the presence of U.N. peacekeeping troops, Srebrenica had fallen July 11, when Mladic, then a swaggering Bosnian Serb general, entered the town with his troops, celebrating, shaking hands and tearing down Bosnian flags. "We give this town to the Serb people as a gift," an ecstatic Mladic told a television journalist. "The time has come to take revenge on the Turks (a reference to Muslim Bosnians) in this region."

The photos, taken by a U-2 spy plane, suggested that revenge came swiftly. After the Security Council meeting that August, Albright told reporters that the photographs made "a compelling case that there were widescale atrocities committed in the area against defenseless civilians, away from the battlefield area."

Forensic investigations the following summer offered con-

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Resolving the labor problem in the CNMI

By JOSE S. DELA CRUZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

U.S. Public Law 110-229—the 2008 federal law that took away local control over immigration matters in the CNMI and established the temporary Commonwealth worker program—has to be amended if the economy of the CNMI is to avoid another economic recession. The initial five-year phasing-out period allowed for the foreign worker program, also called the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Program or CW program, was subsequently amended by Congress to provide for a longer (10-year) phasing out period. When that term expires next year, no more nonresident workers could be hired under the CW program.

To "sweeten the pot" for the Commonwealth in 2008, Public Law 110-229 also provided—after 30 years of local self-government—for the CNMI to have a non-voting delegate in Congress, similar to the other U.S. territories. This federal legislation, however, ignored the clearly foreseeable, adverse effect that the complete phasing-out of nonresident workers would have on the economy of the Commonwealth.

The obvious reason why the Democratically-controlled Congress in 2008 decided to take over immigration in the CNMI was its anger and frustration with the Commonwealth government over the *uncontrolled* entry of nonresident workers into the CNMI, particularly the thousands of garment industry workers from foreign countries. In addition, accusations of "modern-day slavery" taking place in the CNMI were publicized in the national and international media at the start of the 21st century. And the U.S. Congress was embarrassed by such negative publicity and its effect on the reputation of the U.S. as a champion of human rights.

Thus, when the Democratic Party took control of both houses of Congress in 2006, the removal of CNMI control over immigration in the Commonwealth and the imposition of the federal minimum wage law were two key objectives on its agenda. As they say, both matters are now history; both objectives have been accomplished.

So this year, as in the past several years, the leaders of the Commonwealth are once again confronted with the continuing reduction (by 3,000 next year) in the number of CW workers. With the resurgence of economic activity in our tourism industry and the introduction of the casino industry, it is quite clear that the CNMI does not and will not have the number of workers needed by these two industries, not to mention the construction and other ancillary industries.

Under the provisions of Public Law 110-229, CW workers will soon dwindle to zero, at which point there will be no more CW workers. Thereafter, the only recourse for nonresident workers to work in the CNMI is through the H-1 and H-2 visa program, which is limited numerically and is normally a work visa program for highly skilled workers only.

In order to address this basic economic problem—the absence of enough qualified workers—the leaders of the Commonwealth has to first analyze how and why we got into this predicament. Second, our leaders have to come up with a proposed solution that the U.S. Congress would find reasonable and acceptable. Any proposed solution must realistically address the present and future labor needs of the Commonwealth.

Just as important (if not more so), any proposed solution that we come up with must especially address and take into account the concerns of the federal government (especially Congress). We must understand that Congress took away local control over immigration matters because we were not able to implement a sound and controlled entry and exit immigration system.

Congress, on the other hand, must have been aware that the gradual reduction of CW workers over a 10- year period would adversely affect our fragile, insular economy. Geographically isolated in the vast Pacific Ocean, with hardly any local capital, with a scarce land resource, and an extremely limited human resource to service even our tourist industry, we have to convince Congress and the Executive Branch that our only way to economic independence is through the allowance of outside investment and the ability to hire outside workers needed to develop our economy. (This presumes that we have exhausted our available local human resource.)

In formulating a proposed solution that will address the labor needs of the Commonwealth, we must address both our present and future labor requirements. We need to provide real justification(s) for the continuation of the CW program. This requires us to address the problem of overstaying guest workers. It requires us to maintain a line of communication with the federal government with respect to non-immigrant workers. It requires us—before we introduce or allow any new industry in the Commonwealth—to first assess our ability to provide the number and kind of workers for any proposed industry. It is pointless to start new industries in the CNMI, then later regret the fact that we don't have enough workers to service that industry.

Foreign investors must be educated before setting up shop in the CNMI: that they cannot operate in the CNMI as they do in

See LABOR on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Have a merry ESE-M97B44-A

By ED STEPHENS JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

I have added yet another vehicle to the inventory of rolling relics that populate my driveway. This happened right before Thanksgiving. I consequently spent most of the holiday with my head under the hood.

Have you ever tried to change funky power steering fluid using a turkey baster? It's not a procedure I recommend. However, if you ate with us on the big day, please overlook the strange taste of the turkey. And do consider the bright side: Your insides are guaranteed to be rust-free for three years or 36,000 miles.

So, yeah, I'm going to talk about this fluid thing today. Cars are expensive. The better we take care of them the happier our wallets will be.

Unfortunately, automotive fluids have become a swirling galaxy of specifications, compatibility, non-compatibility, and questionable compatibility. It's enough to make a guy go Full Cranky sometimes, and you should never go Full Cranky.

For some perspective, let's rewind back to the old days. You know, the normal days, back when one jug of green coolant in the garage serviced anything that had a steering wheel and an eight-track. Perhaps some esoteric cars used esoteric stuff, but I don't recall any common cars that did.

Modern times, by contrast, delineate at least four different specifications of coolant that I'm aware of. There are surely many more that I haven't yet encountered. I have to keep three jugs of different types of coolant in the garage to cover my cars.

You may ask if there are generic, use-in-any-vehicle concoctions being sold.

Yes, there are.

However, I have no way of ascertaining if they really work. I'm not a chemist. I'm just a slob with old cars. I go by the manufacturer's book, not the marketing copy on some jug at the convenience store.

So, hey, buddy, can you spare some ESE-M97B44-A?

Having adddressed that realm, we can now contemplate the array of motor oils out there. This isn't for the faint of heart.

On this note, the great conventional-vs-synthetic schism has been around for a long time. We can't consider that issue a new wrinkle. Meanwhile, though, super-lightweight oils got popular. When I first saw a viscosity rating of zero I thought it was a typo. It wasn't. One of my cars specifies 0W-40 synthetic. Another specifies 0W-20. The others specify 5W-30.

One issue of contention in my circles is whether or not it's advisable to switch to a synthetic if the vehicle used to run with conventional oil. My pals and I have been arguing about this for about 20 years now. It's a holiday tradition.

The conventional vs. synthetic distinction, I'll note, isn't confined to engine oil. It also applies to gear oil, as I found when I was trying to have a differential serviced. Some shops will just use what's closest to their elbow instead of looking up the correct specification. I'm not willing to engage in a Socratic debate with some dude when I'm standing under a lube rack. It's better to be armed with the right specifications in writing.

Well, I could go on and on. If you were sitting here with me, I'd do just that. You're lucky that you're not, because I haven't even mentioned transmission fluid yet. Egads, that really gets me going.

Anyway, I can no longer keep this stuff straight in my head.

That's the problem. What's the solution?

Mine is to compile a quick-reference, one-page document that has this data for all of our cars. It also has the specs for my preferred brands of air oil filters and air filters. On the filter note you really have to be careful. At least one of the big names that I used to trust has turned into total garbage. I keep an eye out for sales and then stock up on the good stuff when it's marked down.

Speaking of prices, according to Cars.com, the average price of a new car was $31,400 in the first quarter of 2017.

I've seen some cars last over 400,000 miles (although not on Saipan, where corrosion is a silent killer) and I've seen others that have degenerated into smoke-belching jalopies by the time they hit 70,000. If you ponder this variance in longevity in the context of the cost of a new car, well, you can draw your own conclusions.

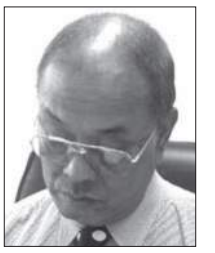
Something else I've seen is that power steering fluid is the same color as cranberry sauce.

Coincidence? I think not.

Indigenous health

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



The state of the health of our people isn't very encouraging per a hybrid study by the Division of Public Health here. In fact, it is discouragingly alarming. The study looked into food we eat, health-wrecking habits like smoking and betel nut chewing, binge drinking, and insufficient exercise.

The study says that 60 percent of our people are obese. It simply means most are overweight! Mirrored against our sedentary lifestyle and huge appetite, wouldn't this number spike over the next decade? Alarming!

I can't refute the findings in that I'm a living witness how our people gobble up food, especially around this time of year! Coupled with the rat race of the holiday season we more often than not overeat, rushing to make it to our next activity. Poor eating habit is especially bad when one develops the couch-potato culture—slam yourself before the TV set—while munching more junk food.

Understood that at age 35, our midsection begins to overflow voluntarily. Does it mean we should fast track weight gain by overeating? Why would you want excess baggage you could do without?

Overeating is the root cause of major health malaise among our people. Overweight triggers hypertension (dangerously high blood pressure) or eventually crash land into Type II diabetes. One easily leads to fatal stroke or massive heart attack, the other amputation (when it reaches chronic level) or kidney failure followed by dialysis.

By the time you begin taking medication, it's already too late. It requires personal resolve to embrace healthy eating like cutting down fatty, salty, and sugary food. Eat in moderation. Overstuffing your tummy denies it its regular function. It's here when your journey begins steadily into difficult lifetime health issues. Control the amount of food you eat on every meal, daily.

Culture: The lagoon between Susupe and Garapan used to be littered with fishermen, especially on weekends. We no longer see it. Most of the folks who fished have sailed permanently into the sunset. Families that used to do pull nets are also gone. It must be the death of another cultural tradition, the prize of modernity.

The various forms of fishing are healthy in terms of food gathering and exercise as you stretch your way in the water. By the time you return to the shore there's something to burn, sipping beer. Today, we only see the latter taking over as we booze it down along the shore. No more fishing! I miss those days.

Farming: Going to the family farm after work or during the weekend was the thing families do even in the '60s. It slowly shifted to jobs in the private and public sectors.

The distribution of large family land to family members who started their own also contributed to the loss of what was once farmland. Eventually, traditional farming would be a part of our written history, if not already.

Embracing a shift in lifestyle was inevitable. It's all part and whole of the shift in cultural practices that constantly changes. Going full bore into learning new demands of the digital age would mean more shifts from our ways. No worries! We're not alone. Tried to get myself an iPhone but my son discouraged it because it's for the young folks. Really? No wonder heads are downcast and glued to the device, ignoring the essence of real time human communication.

**Neñkanu`:** I klase yan kantidan neñkanu` ni ta kakanu` dumetetmina dispues libran tatautau-ta. Yangin sessu un` gulusune chumochu siempre lokue` lachadeg un` pogsai sinturamu `nai mas makat libramu.

Tutuhun tatkilu` haga` ni ti mauleg para hagu. Dispues mas chadeg nina`ye hau chenot daibites (type two) pot mampos megai asukat gi haga`mu.

I diskuidu gi hinemlo`mu dispues de nina`ye hau daibites siempre un` padese ti mañieñiente papa` sanotmu. Piligro este `an chetnudan hau. Makat mana magoñg. Uttimoña debi uma-utot.

`Nai inadite hau daibites, pininu` siempre reñihion-mu `nai solu ma-daialasis hau `nai siña managasgas binenu siha gi haga`mu. Makat na pinadese sa` debi umakula haga`mu tres biahe gi semana, kuattru oras kada biahe. Hagu solu kapitan hinemlo`mu.

Familia: I sentrun pisu gi finana`guen famaguon gaige primet lugat gi halum guma` familia. I dos saina tumuhutun makreansan `sino primet edukasion famaguon niha. Tana fitme este na patte gi ha`anita!

Sumasaunau finana`guen kutturan relihion tanu` `nai ma-asegura na ma-attende dottrina gi entre semana. Mauleg este manafitme mas para adelantun niha i famaguon gi linala` espirituat.

Estague` na pisu `nai umeyag haf` echu che`chu` tautau `sino tunas yan dinanche. Ha utut papa` mañan chanseru gi ti mañgombene siha na aktibidat. Magof i patgon dumalalag i familia para i misan Dameñgo. Siempre u felis kareraña.

Indihinau: Te`ug yan didog chinatsagan familia siha gi bandan fuetsan moneda `nai sumen makat mafahan nesessidat niha. I sueddun i empleau siha gatdun gi fache` diskuidu pot mas ke 20 años na tiempu. Mas ke 14-mit gumagana sueddun popble taimanu pinegan federat. Hasan hatsada piot gi empleau bisnis siha.

Kritikatmiente, hu akanteha haf` i kuattru na ahensian gobietnu ni mangai obligasion umadelanta ha`anen natibu machochogue. Seru! Lau mantinane` otru siha na pinetsige kulan mantañga yan bachet.

Dimas de umatatiye mandatun konstitusion mantinane` che`chu otru ni mafa` tampen sinetnan para u kubren maisa siha pot maletke dichu responsablidat niha. Gi hilu` este na diskuidu, masotta pinadesen familia kulan boten sin ni magtus añklaña ya sige lumauya gi taduñg tasi. Dios mihu!

Yahu lumi`e haf` mas na planu guaha ginen hamyu fuera de taya`. Anchu na responsablidat mana`e kada depattamentu yan ahensia ni oppan yan klaru na mafatañgaye sin fotmat na ineskohe. Man-achacha bulachu i kuattru na kapitan `nai ni unu tumuñgu` umesgaihon galaide` linala` natibu. Dios mihu!

LABOR

From Page 14

their country of origin. Investors need to realize that the CNMI cannot be used as a loophole through which illegal migration thrives or through which crimes are committed. We need to find out from the federal government and its relevant agencies, such as the Department of the Interior and the Department of Homeland Security, before any legislation is drafted, what conditions must be imposed in the proposed legislation, before the federal government and the Congress will agree to the continuation of a reasonable and viable CW program for the CNMI.

Only after we have gone through the above process should a proposed legislation then be drafted, favorably by a joint committee or task force composed of representatives from the CNMI government and the federal government.

I could go on and on in terms of what I think is needed to address and resolve the CW program. But I shall stop here. I think the foregoing discussion gives us one idea of how to approach the need to continue the CW program.

As with other critical matters, time is of the essence. We have only until next year to resolve this major economic problem that the CNMI is facing.

Jose S. Dela Cruz is a former justice of the Commonwealth Supreme Court.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Local heroes

It was Tuesday, Nov. 28, about 5:30pm. I had been swimming laps in front of the Hyatt for about 30 minutes, with only 15 more minutes to go. A large inflated floating swan was put in the water near the north side of the Hyatt beach by an Asian-looking man, I guess Chinese from the talking I heard later. He put his wife and young child, maybe 2 years old, into the floating device, and stayed with them for a few minutes. Then he went back to the beach.

The swan was slowly drifting south toward the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, about 20 feet from the shore. The man had gotten something from the beach and was manipulating it in his hands as he watched the swan. The wind picked up gradually, and I was concerned, but not worried, since the man was watching the whole while and apparently thought that everything was under control.

The wind picked up more, and the swan was now drifting south southwest, slightly more in the direction of the reef. The man started walking quickly in the water to try to catch up to it, but walking was not fast enough. (Running south on the beach and then going into the water to cut it off would have been a much better choice.)

The man started swimming, but was having difficulty because of the rubber shoes on his feet or because he was not a good swimmer, or perhaps both. He did his best but saw the distance between the swan and him growing, so he stood up and faced the beach and shouted, "Help, help!"

I watched people on the beach for a positive reaction but saw nothing. About two seconds later, he shouted again, "Help, help!" I guessed that if nobody else wanted to get involved, I could make it to the swan before it got out much further west, into stronger wind.

That's when two young men w Ssports shade sprang into action. They ran full speed to the water line and then dove into the water (much better than I could have done). They dashed all the way to the swan, which now was probably 80 yards or so from the shoreline. They swam back slowly, pushing the swan in front of them. The swan and rescued woman and baby landed slightly south of Sakura Water Sports.

Most of the people were paralyzed, in what is often called the "Bystander Effect." Most were just watching, having no idea what to do, while probably more than a couple of them grabbed their phones to record the event.

One of those real American Heroes was Tyce, the manager of Gold's Gym. I don't know the name of the other guy, and I don't know his face very well.

Every autumn the CNMI government recognizes "first responders" and other personnel whose job is to save lives. The same type of ceremony happens around most of the U.S., I assume.

What do you call people who respond before the "first responders"' arrive? And who often save a life and make it unnecessary for the "first responders"' to be called? Should we call them "pre-first responders" or...or what?

I understand that DPS officers, EMTs, firefighters, and many others do indeed save many lives, and make large sacrifices via long hours, night shifts, irregular shifts, long shifts, lack of sleep, and sometimes lack of respect, and lack of gratitude. My younger sibling is an MD who has helped save many lives and has sacrificed much more than I would be willing to over the long term.

My point here is that people like Tyce and his friend deserve some recognition and gratitude. They sacrificed their safety and potentially even their own lives to help that mother and baby. In autumn of next year, are they going to have their photos taken, with a great write-up in the newspapers, about their heroic deeds? Or will they just be as plain old "civilians," forgotten while the media honor employees of the government only?

Let's always recognize everyone who saves a life or helps protect people in danger until the "first responders" arrive. That's my opinion.

John Cole
Garapan, Saipan

BODIES

From Page 14

firmation: graves spotted the landscape around Srebrenica. Investigators—including the longtime deputy chief of the Cook County medical examiner's office, Robert Kirschner—found scores of bodies, many of them clearly executed, with bullet wounds through the head. They also found evidence that graves had been dug up, moved and reburied; rattled by the spy plane photos, Bosnian Serb leaders had tried to conceal their crimes.

Human remains have a powerful effect in international courtrooms that prosecute crimes such as genocide or mass murder, because the scale of human suffering they reveal can otherwise easily be lost in a fog of legal technicalities. When I observed Mladic's trial in the summer of 2014, the hearing dragged for hours on seemingly minute details from witnesses' testimonies and statements: spelling, grammar, dates.

Mladic sat on the left side of the courtroom, wearing a dark suit and wire-rimmed glasses, drinking an espresso and looking bored. There was only one other person in the large public gallery, a Bosnian journalist faithfully taking notes on the light green pages of a stenographer's pad. We all know the banality of evil; this was the banality of justice.

But human remains are anything but banal. A prosecutor from an international criminal tribunal once told me, "It is the bodies that make the whole thing real." Concrete evidence, like that provided by bodies, bones, graves and the experts who work with them, "wakes us up."

The forensic effort to locate the bodies from the Bosnian conflicts is the most ambitious ever attempted—and arguably the most successful. An estimated 90 percent of those killed in Srebrenica have been found. Although medical forensic efforts are expensive and time consuming, they are worth the investment.

The International Criminal Court lately has invested more in its digital forensics capacity—improving its ability to analyze cellphone videos, social media, hard drives or data in the cloud. It has focused far less on the recovery of human remains, and builds convincing cases without them. But although atrocities can be proven without human remains, something is lost in those cases.

Bodies, the physical result of mass violence, are important not only for what they can prove legally—though, as Mladic found out all too well, they can provide critical evidence in a court of law. They matter also to families and survivor communities, who may find some relief in knowing their loved ones' fate.

Justice requires that international organizations continue to seek the bodies—not only to help prove atrocities, but to bear witness to history, conflict and the destructive potential of human nature.

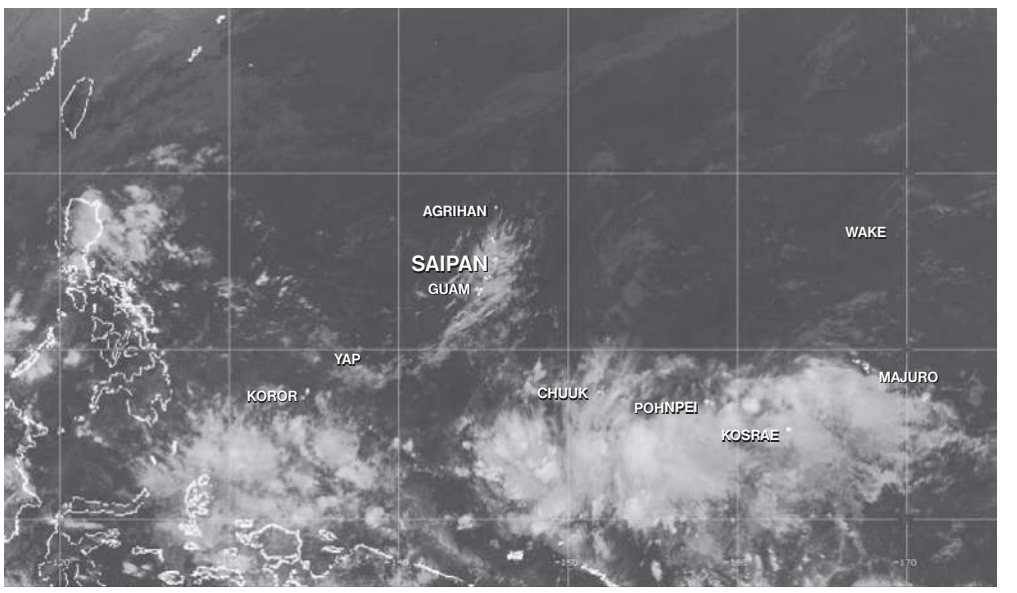
Peggy O'Donnell is the postdoctoral instructor at the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights at the University of Chicago. She wrote this for the Chicago Tribune.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:00 AM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper low was moving across the area early this morning and will be west of the islands later today. Latest lightning data still show occasional strikes across the Marianas so have added isolated thunder this morning. Depending on how quickly the low departs, may have to add thunder to the afternoon as well. Drier air at the mid levels moves in later today through Friday night so only expect isolated showers. It will be a bit breezy today due to the pressure gradient between high pressure to the north and a weak low south of 10N. A decent disturbance is forecast to develop south of 10N over the weekend and move westward. While its main impacts should be south of Guam, clouds will increase and there is a better shot of showers and even a bit breezier weather, especially if the feature end up a bit further north.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	72° / 59°
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 21°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°
Honolulu	Showers	82° / 73°
London	Sunny	43° / 34°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 53°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Rain	66° / 55°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	78° / 71°
New York	Showers	53° / 36°
Osaka	Sunny	52° / 39°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	39° / 28°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	48° / 36°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	55° / 39°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 48°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	45° / 32°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	50° / 39°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	54° / 34°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:49 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.69
11:24 AM	LOW TIDE	0.73
5:18 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.07
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:27 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:27 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Monday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Tuesday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:35 am	3:46 pm
Saturday	-	4:34 am	4:36 pm
Sunday	-	5:36 am	5:31 pm
Monday	-	6:41 am	6:30 pm
Tuesday	-	7:46 am	7:32 pm

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
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HYATT REGENCY SAIPAN celebrates 37 years in the CNMI

Nick Nishikawa has been running the Hyatt Regency Saipan as general manager for 10 years now—a decade that has proven to be both challenging and fulfilling.

BEA CABRERA
Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa.

As the first international hotel brand in the CNMI, Hyatt is used to the ups and downs of a tourism economy but Nishikawa's experience in the CNMI was sobering. Tourism was at a standstill as many flights were terminated.

There was only one flight from Korea and not a single flight from China.

"When I came to Saipan in 2008, the challenge was high be-

See HYATT on Page 18

From our Hyatt Regency Saipan family to yours, thank you for sharing our memories.

Celebrating 37 years in the CNMI.

Hyatt Regency Saipan, wants to thank our industry partners, Club at the Hyatt and Club Elan members for your untiring support!

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HYATT

From Page 17

cause the economy was down. The management of Hyatt told to me that the economy was down to the bottom so go there to manage, raise, and lift up the hotel," said Nishikawa in a chat with *Saipan Tribune*. "We were running 40- to 50-percent occupancy. To keep up, we closed the restaurant two days a week. At that time, we operated 36 hours a week," he said.

Other establishments and even the CNMI government were operating at 32-36 hours per week.

"We slowly recovered in 2009. As the Japan and Korea tourists were low in numbers, we looked at the China market. The Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Island, of which Hyatt is a member of, went to Shanghai and that was the beginning of a new tourism window."

In 2012, with the China market growing, Hyatt Regency Saipan allocated rooms for Chinese tour agents to sell. That made the Chinese market a consistent source for the CNMI's booming tourism. Other industries also caught fire, like Century Tours, charter flights of Star Marianas, and China Airlines had flight service from various cities in China.

> *Competition is quite heavy as many places in Southeast Asia are also favored by many tourists. Everybody is trying to get their market share. What sets us apart, though, is that Saipan is a U.S. territory and we have so much to offer. Our tourists are a mix of new and repeating visitors.*

Nowadays, most hotels in the CNMI are running at 100-percent accommodation. Nishikawa said the CNMI currently has 3,000 rooms to accommodate tourists and it is healthy.

In September 2017, HANMI reported an 89.83-percent average occupancy rate among 11 member-hotels for September 2017. The figure reflects a 5-percent increase compared to September 2016.

"Flights play a key role in bringing in tourists," Nishikawa said.

He acknowledged, though, that the promotion being exhausted by Saipan Regency Saipan, HANMI, and the Marianas Visitors Authority to promote the Commonwealth in overseas markets has been very effective.

"Competition is quite heavy as many places in Southeast Asia are also favored by many tourists. Everybody is trying to get their market share," he said. "What sets us apart, though, is that Saipan is a U.S. territory and we have so much to offer. Our tourists are a mix of new and repeating visitors."

One of the biggest challenges that Hyatt Regency Saipan is dealing with is the eventual expiration of the CW-1 program in 2019.

"The number of hotels and tourists are increasing but the number of workers is not. In the hotel business, we need people and not machines. Machines you can buy but you cannot buy people."

"Also, the number of resident workers is limited. If there were many, we would hire and train them but the number of people is limited. That's why the CW workers cover the gaps and we worry about this area."

Nishikawa said that Hyatt currently has 300 staff composed of 80 percent local residents and 20 percent CW-1 workers.

"When I came in 2008, the mix was 50-50. We are slowly getting into the transition, anticipating 2019, but to maintain the economy fueled by the tourism industry, the need for CW will always be there," he said.

At the same time, Hyatt is awaiting the Legislature's decision on Senate Bill 20-35, which would extend the lease of hotel establishments on public lands.

"The bill is in the House now and we are hoping for the extension. Many will be affected—300 employees and 1,000 family members if this doesn't push through. We are currently updating our rooms and to get the lease extension would be good for our guests," Nishikawa said.

"Tourism is the only industry on this island. If there are no hotels, there will be no tourism. Everyone will be affected and having hotels here definitely benefit the CNMI people," he added.

This year is a milestone for Hyatt Regency Saipan, which would celebrate 37 years of being in the Commonwealth. If there is one legacy that Hyatt wants to be known for is that they value commitment.

"Once we open the door we cannot close it. The hotel business is open 24/7. When the economy was down, we survived but Hyatt knows how to survive. Experience plays a big role in that as Hyatt has been managing more than 600 hotels all over the world."

"We learn how to survive on a good day and especially on bad days because of our commitment to our guests and the people of the CNMI," Nishikawa said.

Hyatt Regency Saipan's 37th anniversary will be highlighted by the lighting of the Christmas tree at the hotel's lobby on Dec. 1 and the public is invited to join them.

"This celebration is really about giving thanks to our guests and the public who have supported Hyatt Regency Saipan all these years," Nishikawa said. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

GETTING TO KNOW OUR HYATT COLLEAGUES

ALMONDO C. SANTOS
(Engineering Manager)

When did you join Hyatt? Oct. 15, 2012.
What made you stay with Hyatt? The people or associates that I work with (upper management and rank and file); employees care about what they do; and challenges to accomplish our tasks.
Where do you see yourself in five years (with Hyatt)? I have been working for Hyatt for the past five years already and look forward to continuing that.
Describe your experiences at Hyatt. Sometime multiple things happen and I work to address those issues in which priority has to be set in making sure that our needs are met. . . .My family has been very grateful for the good benefits I get as a Hyatt employee, especially when traveling is required.
How would you describe to someone your experience with Hyatt? Good, challenging, hectic at times, flexibility is the key to our issues.

PENELOPE JONES (Personnel Officer)

When did you join Hyatt? August 13, 2007
Why do you like working with Hyatt? Hyatt is a great company. It has great benefits and loving and caring people. I also stay because I enjoy and take pride in what I do, and, most importantly, the new and great challenges ahead, the responsibilities that come with it, and the support I get from my colleagues. And the best part of the day is knowing that I've made a difference today and look forward to tomorrow. No matter how hectic the day may seem, always maintain a positive outlook, be patient and continue smiling.
Where do you see yourself in five years (with Hyatt)? Besides slight wrinkles and grey hair, definitely with more responsibilities in a higher capacity. And I look forward to our continuous journey.
Please describe your experience with Hyatt. Hyatt has given me many opportunities. I've learned so much not only with our daily operations but the mentorship of superiors. Without their (family, colleagues, and company) love and support, I wouldn't have made it this far. The people I work with are not just associates; I consider them family.
How would you describe to someone your experience with Hyatt? There may be times when I feel overwhelmed, times where I feel that it's not enough, times where I can do more, and the best part of it all is when I feel accomplished. Working for Hyatt not just because it's a "brand." Hyatt has standards that give you passion to do the things you can achieve, the challenges you encounter and challenges overcome. It's a company that cares for its employees and the company. Hyatt stands by its purpose: "We care for people so they can be their best." So if anyone asks me where I work, I'll proudly say, I work at Hyatt. With that, I am very thankful for the wonderful blessings, Hyatt, and it's wonderful associates.

PATRICIA MATAGOLAI
(Assistant Manager, Kili Cafe)

When did you join Hyatt? I joined Hyatt in September 2010, as a Club at the Hyatt clerk/restaurant reservation admin.
What made you stay with Hyatt? Some join to build résumé or for the international brand. For me, I stay because I love the challenge, the energy, and most of all, I love my team who has a similar goal to exceed guest satisfaction and showcase our island's hafa adai hospitality.
Where do you see yourself in five years (with Hyatt)? I want to see myself working on getting a bachelor's and being an outlet manager at Kili Cafe & Terrace.
Please describe your experiences at Hyatt. "If everybody wants happiness and no one wants pain, you can't have a rainbow without a little rain." Being part of Hyatt isn't easy; it's a whole lot of hard work and commitment. But at the end of it all, Hyatt gave me the training and the opportunity to be the Hyatt management member that I am today.
How would you describe to someone your experience with Hyatt? It's rewarding. Being part of Hyatt family for seven-plus years now, I don't see myself going anywhere else.

JESSE AUGON
(Sous Chef)

When did you join Hyatt? I joined Hyatt Regency Saipan on March 10, 2009.
What made you stay with Hyatt? I grew up during my eight years at Hyatt Regency Saipan. I have learned so much. I have encountered challenges that keep me focused on my career and development. There is no other hotel that makes you feel like a family. It is family-oriented and cares for you.
Where do you see yourself in five years (with Hyatt)? I see myself improving and become a better chef. I still a lot to learn and still have a lot to accomplish. Hyatt has great leadership and my goal is become one day become a leader in the hotel.
Describe your experiences at Hyatt. My experience are both challenging and inspiring. The challenge is because I have been in situations where I had to lead and I had to be creative and be sure on my actions and decisions. I got a chance to work with chefs with different backgrounds and cultures, chefs who show passion in every aspect, who create great food for our customers.
How would you describe to someone your experience with Hyatt? I have mentioned that Hyatt is like a family, with everyone helping you to achieve your goals. It is a great training establishment and you will get the best experience to become a better leader and person in the future.

BRENDA VILLAGOMEZ
(Purchasing Manager)

When did you join Hyatt? April 24, 1994.
What made you stay with Hyatt? Hyatt is one of the big companies on island that I've tried working for, and I felt connected instantly because the employees are professional toward guests and other staff. The company also offers great benefits. I enjoy working for the Hyatt because every day is an opportunity to learn new things and learn to accept challenges.
Where do you see yourself in five years (with Hyatt)? I hope to still be working for Hyatt in the next five years.
Describe your experiences at Hyatt. When I first joined the company I had few experiences in the hospitality industry. Today, Hyatt has filled me with a lot of knowledge that we pass to other employees, trainings to be more professional in our work, provides opportunities to grow and, being a multicultural industry, Hyatt has also taught me to love, respect and care for not just the people around at my workplace but also in the community. Overall, I feel that Hyatt is my second home.
How would you describe to someone your experience with Hyatt? There is no other place to appreciate more of what the company could offer and an opportunity of a lifetime.

GINO LIBUW
(Club Elan Supervisor)

When did you join Hyatt? Aug. 28, 2008
What made you stay with Hyatt? When I first joined the company, it was just a working place for me. It didn't feel encouraging. Years went by and things have changed. I now feel like the company is my second home. My colleagues are like brothers and sisters to me. I started to notice that I would learn new things everyday and meet different people. Also, the trainings that we had made me want to stay and learn more.
Where do you see yourself in five years (with Hyatt)? I still see myself with the company as a manager at a recreation side. I am already in management but I still want to learn more.
Describe your experience with Hyatt. When I first came in to the company, I didn't understand most of the operation at my working area or anything about guest satisfaction. Now I can say I am comfortable and able to assist with guest needs and also master my workplace operation.
How would you describe to someone your experience with Hyatt? I will tell people that Hyatt treats its employees as family and you can also learn a lot of things from their training. They can train you to not just become a good employee but also learn their standards.

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Luen Fung Enterprises (Saipan), Inc.

MVA joins China tourism exhibit

On Nov.17-19, 2017, the Marianas Visitors Authority joined hands with Dynasty Holiday, Century Tours, Top Development Inc. Shenzhen Professional International Travel Service, and China Youth Travel Service (Beijing) to participate in China International Tourism Mart in Kunming.

Since it was first held in 2001, the China International Tourism Mart has been held annually in Shanghai or Kunming, and it has grown into the largest professional travel trade fair in Asia, attracting the attention of the travel industry from all over the world.

MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres joined the exhibition at Dianchi International Convention Center to meet with a wide range of travel partners in mainland China and personally express the MVA's appreciation for their support.

"We are very optimistic about the future development of the travel market in mainland China and took this opportunity to enhance the awareness of the Marianas in the market," said Torres. "We continue to strive to make Saipan, Tinian and Rota the first choice for Chinese tourists on island vacation."

The MVA has upgraded its Chinese official website, its official WeChat platform, its official Sina Weibo, and other travel information for Saipan, Tinian and Rota to enhance mainland tourists' understanding of the Marianas.

Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, and Hong Kong have non-stop flights to Saipan, and nearly 20 cities across the country have opened transit flight. The Marianas is the only American territory offering Chinese tourists visa-free policy, which has greatly benefited the tourism industry. ***(PR)***

MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority marketing specialist Laura Hsiao, left, promotes Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at the China International Travel Mart in Kunming on Nov. 17-19, 2017.

MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres, third from left, and the CNMI delegation promote Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at the China International Travel Mart in Kunming on Nov. 17-19, 2017. Pictured from left are MVA Shanghai Travel Trade manager Silver Xu, marketing specialist Laura Hsiao, Torres, chief accountant Joanne Paraiso, MVA Beijing Travel Trade manager Flo Shi, and MVA Guangzhou marketing manager Ben Liu.

HAPPY 37TH ANNIVERSARY!

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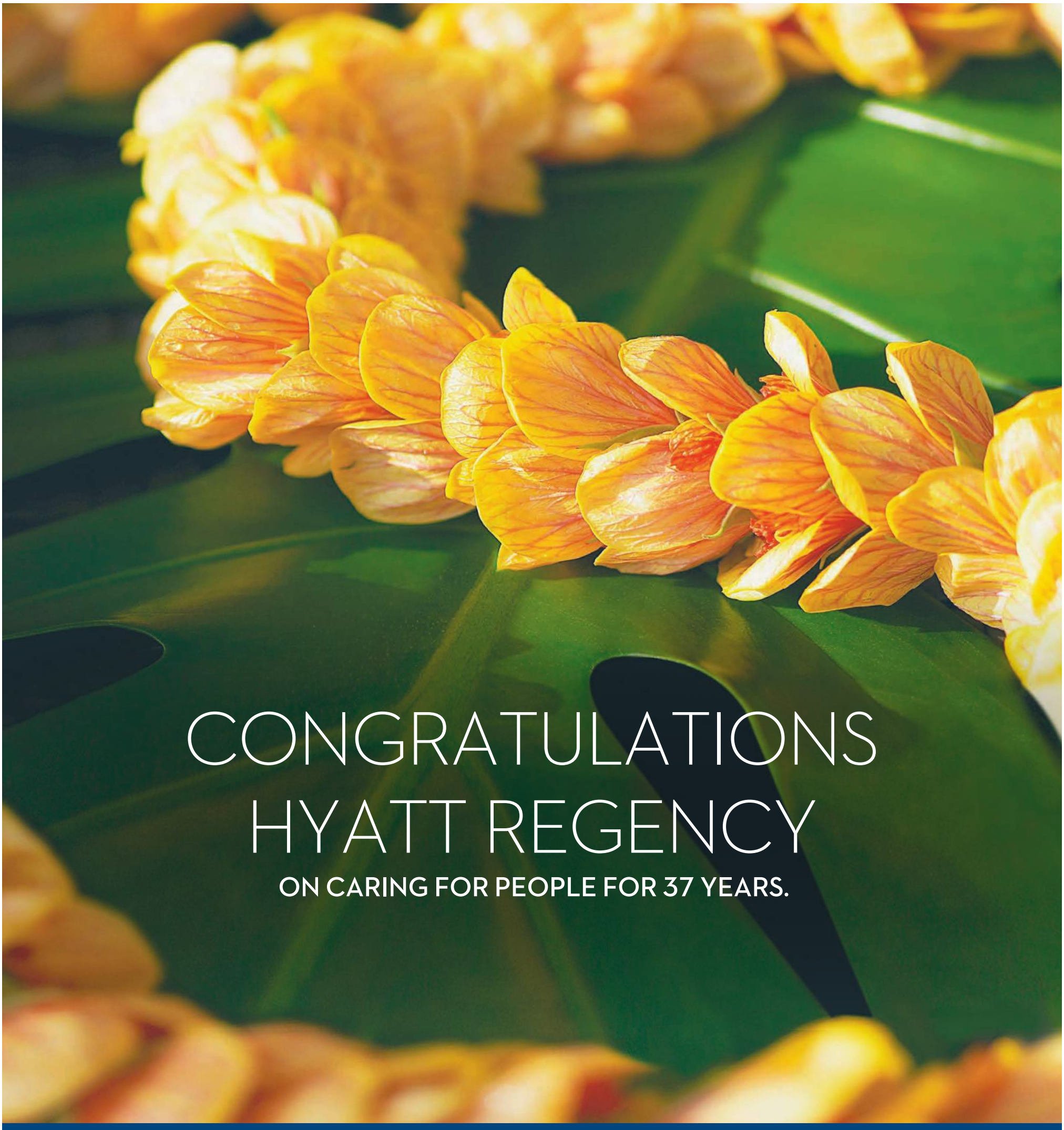

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Business

Conservatives slam GOP proposal to automatically raise taxes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Conservative groups and lawmakers are lining up against a proposal by Senate Republicans to impose automatic tax increases on millions of Americans—if their sweeping tax package doesn't grow the economy and raise tax revenues as much as projected.

The opposition comes as the tax package cleared a key procedural vote in the Senate on Wednesday. The Senate voted 52-48 to start debating the bill. Wednesday's vote potentially could pave the way for the Senate to pass the package later this week. The Senate could start voting on amendments Thursday evening.

Opposition to the tax "trigger" could doom a delicately negotiated proposal aimed at mollifying deficit hawks who worry that tax cuts for businesses and individuals could add trillions to the mounting national debt.

Tucking a potential tax increase into the tax cut bill isn't sitting well with conservatives.

"Automatic tax increases are a special level of insanity," said Rep. Trent Franks, R-Ariz. "I don't think it survives."

Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, called the proposal "a uniquely bad idea," especially if revenues fall short because of an unforeseen slowdown in the economy.

Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., said the threat of an automatic tax increase would make businesses reluctant to invest.

"If businesses or individuals have no ability to plan on a rate, it makes an investment decision, for instance, very, very difficult," Sanford said.

The proposal is being pushed by Republican Sens. Bob Corker of Tennessee, James Lankford of Oklahoma and Jeff Flake of Arizona. It is picking up steam in the GOP-controlled Senate, even if it could land with a thud in the GOP-controlled House.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES

By order of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is authorized to adjust the Fuel Adjustment Charge, previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC, depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the Fuel Adjustment Charge. Due to an increase in the average fuel prices, CUC will adjust the fuel-charge by 7.96%. Accordingly, the Fuel Adjustment Charge has increased from $0.16886 per kWh to **$0.18231** per kWh effective **December 1, 2017.**

BASE RATES

		RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
1 Monthly Customer Charge		$ 7.00	$ 10.00	$ 10.00	$ 9.06
2 Base Rates Per kWh:					
KWH LEVELS					
1)	1 to 350	$ 0.0210	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
2)	351 to 1,200	$ 0.0970	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
3)	1,201 and over	$ 0.1580	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070

*Municipal Pumping

FUEL ADJUSTMENT CHARGE or FAC (Previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC)

	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
Current FAC (Effective 12/01/17)	$ 0.18231	$ 0.18231	$ 0.18231	$ 0.18231
Previous FAC (10/01/17 - 11/30/17)	$ 0.16886	$ 0.16886	$ 0.16886	$ 0.16886

*Municipal Pumping

PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING AND PRIVATE AREA LIGHTING TARIFF

Availability: Applicable to public outdoor streetlighting service and private area lighting where CUC owns, maintains and operates such facilities.
Fixture Charge: See below.
Energy Charge: The Energy Charge is the kWh multiplied by the sum of the applicable Electric Base Rate and the Fuel Adjustment Charge.
Total Streetlight Charge: The Total Streetlight Charge is the sum of the applicable Fixture Charge and the applicable Energy Charge.

			Monthly Charge				
FIXTURE TYPE	WATTS	KWH	FIXTURE CHARGE	RES - ENERGY CHARGE	**RES - TOTAL S.LIGHT CHARGE**	COM - ENERGY CHARGE	**COM - TOTAL S.LIGHT CHARGE**
1 Long Arm	250	101	$ 11.67	$ 20.53	$ 32.20	$ 29.83	$ 41.50
2 Short Arm	175	71	$ 8.33	$ 14.44	$ 22.77	$ 20.97	$ 29.30
3 LED	140	57	$ 10.83	$ 11.59	$ 22.42	$ 16.83	$ 27.66
			(a)	(b)	(a+b)	(c)	(a+c)

RES = Residential COM = Commercial S.Light = Streetlight

ELECTRIC NON-RATE FEES

1	Late Charge (monthly)	1% of Past Due
2	NSF Check / Returned Check Charge	$ 40.00
3	Convenience Fee (for pay-by-phone and online payments) - Temporarily Suspended	$ 1.50
4	Unauthorized Connection	$ 550.00
5	Reconnection at the Pole	$ 200.00
6	Investigation (no charge for first two investigations)	$ 210.00
7	Disconnection Notice - Temporarily Suspended	$ 15.00
8	Meter Change Out	$ 95.00
9	New Service - Single Phase	$ 135.00
10	Inspection of Service (no charge for first two inspections)	$ 90.00
11	Meter Test - Single Phase	$ 75.00
12	Meter Test - Three Phase	$ 110.00
13	Disconnection at the Meter	$ 45.00
14	Reconnection at the Meter	$ 60.00

December 2017

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARFF BUILDING RENOVATIONS
Project No. CPA-TA-003-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for the Tinian International Airport ARFF Building Renovations Project, No. CPA-TA-003-16, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes overall construction management services for the duration of the project. Details are available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager, in writing via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, via fax to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, December 1, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall CM experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – 30 points;
2. CM experience related to airport related project requirements funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); – 30 points;
3. Level of proficiency in performing CM services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA regulations and requirements and AIP grants – 15 points;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience, firm's ability to perform the services and the firm's professional integrity and competence – 15 points; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable – 10 points.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified construction management firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

All consultants shall comply with all applicable FAA requirements under this federally funded project.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: November 15, 2017

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-002-18

PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF SECURITY CAMERAS AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the procurement, installation & commissioning of security cameras and surveillance systems at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Proposal Package and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning November 27, 2017 at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement, Installation & Commissioning of Security Cameras and Surveillance System, BTMIA, Rota, Project No. CPA-RA-002-18". One original and three copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME, December 22, 2017**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All Proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on Rota on **December 15, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Benjamin Manglona Rota International Airport (CPA) conference room. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only those vendors present at the pre-proposal conference will be allowed to submit proposals. A site visit will be conducted immediately after the conference or may be requested by making appointments with the CPA Rota Ports Manager to ensure that proposers submitting a proposal are aware of the general area where the surveillance cameras are to be installed.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejections or cancellations; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.
CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

This Project is funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date

Nation

House panel backs bill expanding gun owners' rights

WASHINGTON (AP)—A key House committee on Wednesday approved a Republican bill to expand gun owners' rights—the first gun legislation since mass shootings in Las Vegas and Texas killed more than 80 people.

On a party-line vote, the Judiciary Committee backed a bill that would allow gun owners with a state-issued concealed carry permit to carry a handgun in any state that allows concealed weapons. Republicans said the reciprocity measure would allow gun owners to travel freely between states without worrying about conflicting state laws or civil suits.

The bill was approved 19-11 and now goes to the House floor.

The Judiciary panel also approved legislation to strengthen the FBI database of prohibited gun buyers after the Air Force failed to report the criminal history of the gunman who slaughtered more than two dozen people at a Texas church.

The Air Force has acknowledged that the Texas shooter, Devin P. Kelley, should have had his name and domestic violence conviction submitted to the National Criminal Information Center database. The Air Force has discovered "several dozen" other such reporting omissions since the Nov. 5 shooting.

Democrats said the bill making it easier to carry concealed weapons across state lines—a top priority of the National Rifle Association and other gun-rights groups—would endanger public safety by overriding states with strict gun laws, forcing them to comply with states that have far looser laws on guns.

"You want to wipe out our state law" that places tight restrictions on who can carry a concealed weapon, Democratic Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland told Republicans.

The GOP bill "lowers everybody's standards to the lowest in the union," Raskin said. "It is the agenda of the NRA, but it should not be the agenda of Congress."

Rep. Steve Cohen, D-Tenn., said the bill would override his state's law barring people under 21 from getting concealed carry permits, while other Democrats noted that restrictions on drunken drivers and convicted stalkers could be overridden.

But Rep. John Rutherford, R-Fla., said the bill would increase public safety by allowing more law-abiding citizens to carry guns, regardless of where they live or travel.

"I don't believe my right to defend myself should end at the state line," Rutherford said. "My constitutional rights do not end at the Florida line."

Rutherford and other Republicans said a "good guy with a gun" is often the best way to counter a gun-wielding criminal. They cited the June shooting of House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, R-La., who was seriously wounded at a congressional baseball game practice. Capitol police on Scalise's security detail fired back at the gunman, saving the lives of other lawmakers.

Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., called the argument misleading, noting that police are trained to respond to an active shooter, while most civilians are not.

AP

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., joined at left by House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., makes a statement as the Republican-controlled panel crafts a bill to expand gun owners' rights, the first gun legislation since mass shootings in Las Vegas and Texas killed more than 80 people, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017.

Trump stokes anti-Muslim sentiment; censured in US, abroad

WASHINGTON (AP)—Stoking the same anti-Islam sentiments he fanned on the campaign trail, President Donald Trump on Wednesday retweeted a string of inflammatory videos from a fringe British political group purporting to show violence being committed by Muslims.

The tweets drew a sharp condemnation from British Prime Minister Theresa May's office, which said it was "wrong for the president to have done this." May spokesman James Slack said the far-right Britain First group seeks to divide through its use of "hateful narratives which peddle lies and stoke tensions."

Brushing off the criticism in an evening tweet, Trump said May instead of focusing on him should "focus on the destructive Radical Islamic Terrorism that is taking place within the United Kingdom."

Trump had turned away from taxes, North Korea and other issues facing his administration to share the three videos tweeted by Jayda Fransen, deputy leader of the British group. It was not clear what drew him to the videos, though one had been shared by conservative commentator Ann Coulter the day before.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump was simply promoting border security and suggested that verifying the content was not a top concern.

"Whether it's a real video, the threat is real and that is what the president is talking about," she said.

The tweets read: "VIDEO: Islamist mob pushes teenage boy off roof and beats him to death!" and "VIDEO: Muslim Destroys a Statue of Virgin Mary!" and "VIDEO: Muslim migrant beats up Dutch boy on crutches!"

Trump made anti-Muslim comments one hallmark of his presidential campaign and has previously retweeted inflammatory posts from controversial Twitter accounts including some with apparent ties to white nationalist groups. As president, he has sought to ban travel to the U.S. from a number of majority-Muslim countries.

His promotion of the videos came two days after he mocked Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren as "Pocahontas" during an Oval Office event with Native American veterans, drawing criticism from of Native American war veterans and politicians of both major parties.

Britain First opposes what it calls the "Islamization" of Britain. It has run candidates in local and national elections, with little success, and has campaigned against the construction and expansion of mosques.

Trump's retweets gave a wide platform to the previously obscure group. The videos were each shared more than 10,000 times, and Fransen picked up nearly 10,000 Twitter followers in the hours following Trump's retweets. She thanked him on Twitter, saying "GOD BLESS YOU TRUMP!"

Former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke also welcomed the videos, tweeting that Trump was being "condemned for showing us what the fake news media WON'T. Thank God for Trump! That's why we love him!"

Condemnation from civil rights organizations was swift.

The executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Nihad Awad, said in a statement that Trump is "clearly telling members of his base that they should hate Islam and Muslims."

The American Civil Liberties Union, in a tweet, said, "Trump's prejudice against Muslims reveals itself at every turn—with today's tweets meant to gin up fear and bias."

There are about 3.45 million Muslims in the United States, according to an August report from the Pew Research Center.

Lawyer: Conyers has no plan to resign amid harassment claims

DETROIT (AP)—Embattled U.S. Rep. John Conyers has no plans to resign amid allegations that the congressman sexually harassed several women when they worked on his staff, his lawyer said Wednesday.

Detroit-area attorney Arnold Reed told The Associated Press that the 88-year-old Conyers is going to fight claims that he inappropriately touched the women and that anyone making the allegations should be prepared to back them up.

Reed said Conyers is "innocent and will cooperate with any investigation that ensues."

"He's going to fight these allegations tooth and nail if he has to with evidence, with documentation, witnesses, whatever he has to do," Reed said. "And the accusers will have to prove up their case."

Last week, BuzzFeed News reported that Conyers had settled a complaint in 2015 from a woman on his staff who alleged she was fired because she rejected his sexual advances.

BuzzFeed reported that Conyers' office paid the woman more than $27,000 in the confidential settlement. BuzzFeed also published affidavits from former staff members who said they had witnessed Conyers touching female staffers inappropriately or requesting sexual favors.

A former scheduler filed a complaint earlier this year, but later dropped it. The Associated Press hasn't released her name. And a third ex-staffer, Deanna Maher, said Tuesday that in 1997 Conyers undressed to his underwear in front of her and twice touched her leg inappropriately.

Reed said he met with Conyers, who was at his Detroit home Wednesday and mostly remained indoors before being driven away in the afternoon as reporters gathered outside the gated driveway.

Monica Conyers told reporters that her husband is entitled to have the judicial process play out "before we start being his judge and jury ... and tarnish all of these years of his legacy for nothing."

Conyers first was elected to the U.S. House in 1964. He missed two roll-call votes late Tuesday and was photographed by a passenger boarding a flight to Detroit from Washington.

"It's very unfortunate to see him fight so long for so many people and to automatically have the allegations assumed to be true," said his son, John Conyers III.

Asia

Haley: NKorea 'brings us closer to war' that the US doesn't seek

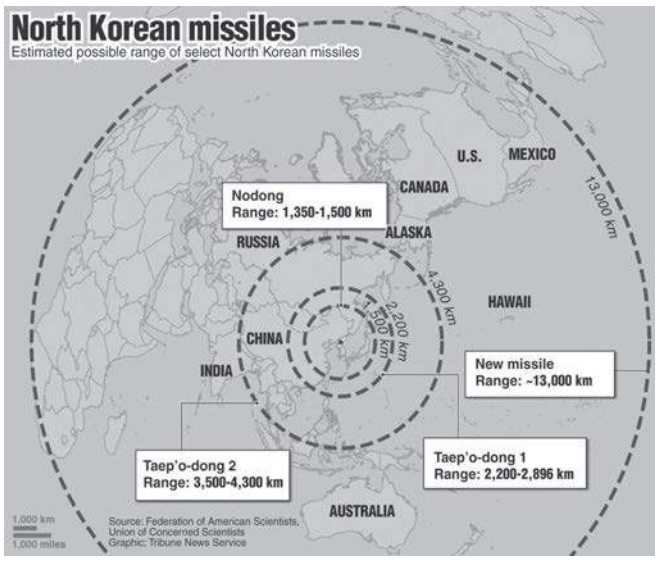
UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations said Wednesday that North Korea's launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile - which some observers believe could reach the Eastern U.S.—"brings us closer" to a war the U.S. isn't seeking.

Nikki Haley, speaking at an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council, said that if war comes as a result of further acts of "aggression" like the latest launch, "make no mistake the North Korean regime will be utterly destroyed."

"The dictator of North Korea made a decision yesterday that brings us closer to war, not farther from it," Haley said. "We have never sought war with North Korea and still today we do not seek it."

The Trump administration threatened new sanctions on North Korea after the reclusive government shattered 2½ months of relative quiet with its most powerful weapon test yet.

President Donald Trump tweeted that he spoke with Chinese President Xi Jinping about Pyongyang's "provocative actions," and he vowed that "additional major sanctions will be imposed on North Korea today. This situation will be handled!" Trump's top diplomat, Rex Tillerson, said the U.S. could target financial institutions doing business with the North.



At the emergency Security Council meeting, China's deputy U.N. ambassador Wu Haitao reiterated the China-Russia proposal for North Korea to suspend all nuclear and missile tests and for the U.S. and South Korea to suspend all military exercises.

Russia's U.N. ambassador Vassily Nebenzia also urged North Korea to stop the tests and called on the U.S. and South Korea to cancel large-scale military maneuvers scheduled for December.

Haley said the world's nations have the power to further isolate and reverse North Korea's dangerous course, by cutting all ties to the country and enforcing U.N. sanctions. She said Trump during his call to Xi urged the Chinese president to cut off all oil deliveries to North Korea. "That would be a pivotal step in the world's effort to stop this international pariah," she said.

Bali flights resume, but volcanic ash still disrupts travel

KARANGASEM, Indonesia (AP)—Flights trickled out of Bali a day after its airport reopened but the erupting volcano there shut down air travel to a neighboring Indonesian island Thursday, showing the continued risk to aircraft from the towering ash clouds.

Mount Agung has been gushing black-gray columns of volcanic dust and steam since the weekend and glowing a dramatic red at night as lava wells in its crater.

Bali's airport was closed from early Monday until Wednesday afternoon, stranding tens of thousands of travelers on the idyllic resort island famous for its Hindu culture, surf beaches and lush interior.

It reopened after the hazardous ash clouds changed direction, but the threat has now closed the small international airport on Lombok island until at least Thursday evening.

Australia's Jetstar said it would have 16 flights out of Bali on Thursday, six more than usual, which would take about 3,500 Australians home. Two South Korean airlines said they were sending charter flights on Thursday, one to Bali and another to Surabaya on the neighboring island of Java, which some tourists have reached by ferry and bus, to collect as many as 700 Koreans.

Figures from the airport showed 23 flights, mostly domestic, carried about 1,600 passengers out Wednesday. Inbound flights included a Singapore Airlines jet with only two passengers.

The volcano was erupting less furiously Thursday. The Disaster Mitigation Agency said the ash plume was rising about 2,000 meters above the crater, about half its previous height. As ash has drifted away from the mountain, it has reached heights of 25,000 feet (7,600 meters), posing a threat to aircraft.

Despite the all-clear for Bali's airport, flights are unlikely to rapidly return to normal levels and a change in the direction of the ash or a new more powerful eruption could force the airport's closure again.

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo ordered ministries and agencies, the military and police to help Bali's government deal with the disaster, and he has urged anyone inside the mountain's exclusion zone to get out "for the sake of their safety."

Authorities have told 100,000 people to leave an area extending up to 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the volcano. About 40,000 people are staying in 225 shelters, the disaster agency said, but tens of thousands more have stayed they feel safe or don't want to abandon homes and livestock.

In the village of Tulamben inside the exclusion zone, farmers were plowing their fields with cattle Wednesday, seemingly unbothered by the smoking mountain behind them swelling with orange lava.

In Sukadana village, about 8 kilometers from the crater, a few remaining residents said mudflows of volcanic debris and water had passed through the area for a couple of days before solidifying.

Some stranded tourists managed to get off the island before the airport reopened, but they faced an arduous journey involving crowded roads, buses, ferries and some-

World

Former Croat general performs ultimate act at war crimes trial

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)—Slobodan Praljak, a former film and theater director turned wartime general, was always known for theatrics.

So, when the former Bosnian Croat military commander suddenly threw back his head and drank what he said was poison from a small bottle after his 20-year war crimes sentence was upheld by a U.N. court on Wednesday, many Croats watching the drama unfold on live TV thought it was yet another bluff.

But it wasn't. The 72-year-old silver-bearded Praljak died soon after being rushed from the U.N. tribunal to a nearby hospital.

The shocking scene was not unlike the suspenseful plays he once directed before becoming a military commander during the Balkan wars of the early 1990s.

"Judges, Slobodan Praljak is not a war criminal! I reject, with contempt, your verdict," Praljak shouted before drinking from the bottle.

Then, his voice rising theatrically, he declared: "That is poison that I drank."

The dramatic scene shocked Croatia, diverting attention from the convictions of Praljak and five other Bosnian Croat wartime military and political leaders for their part in a plot to violently carve out a Croat-dominated mini-state in Bosnia by killing and deporting Muslims.

Wednesday's ruling, which upheld a key finding that the late Croatian leader Franjo Tudjman was directly involved in the plot, could have major financial and political implications for Croatia, potentially triggering massive war damage claims and shaking the Bosniak-Croat mini-state within Bosnia that the two ethnic groups share.

A founder of Tudjman's Croatian Democratic Union party, Praljak was one of six Bosnian Croat political and military leaders who with significant support from neighboring Croatia turned against the Bosnian army during the 1992-95 war, trying to carve out an ethnically pure Croat region by force, just as Bosnian Serbs had done in other areas of Bosnia with help from Serbia.

Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic decried Wednesday's verdicts, calling Praljak's apparent suicide "his message" to Croatia to resist the consequences of the "unjust" ruling by the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia. Ironically, Praljak, who had already been jailed for 13 years before his 20-year sentence was upheld, could have soon walked free because convicts are generally released after serving two-thirds of their sentences.

Before the war, Praljak directed productions in theaters across Bosnia, notably in the southern city of Mostar, where he was accused of ordering the destruction of the city's Old Bridge, one of the most striking Ottoman monuments in the Balkans and a jewel of Bosnia's Islamic heritage.

"Mr.Praljak could have been a good director who would have made films about Mostar instead of destroying it," said Bosnian Muslim leader Bakir Izetbegovic, whose father Alija led the Muslims during the war.

Honduras president edges into lead, vote count delayed again

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Officials late Wednesday again delayed the announcement of final returns from Honduras' presidential election, while the main opposition candidate vowed not to recognize the official count after the latest partial results edged incumbent President Juan Orlando Hernandez into a razor-thin lead.

After leading by about 5 percentage points in initial results announced early Monday, opposition candidate Salvador Nasralla had 42.11 percent of the votes Wednesday night, barely behind 42.21 percent for Hernandez, according to the latest returns on the electoral court's website.

Public updates of the vote count essentially stopped for over a day after the initial report, then resumed in a trickle of returns. A slow but inexorable evaporation of Nasralla's lead raised tensions in the country and fed suspicions among his supporters that the count was being manipulated.

Late Wednesday, Nasralla disavowed a promise he made with the Organization of American States to respect the official outcome.

"I signed that document before the electoral court's computing center went down, and that was a trap," Nasralla said at a news conference. "The agreement with the OAS was to respect trustworthy results without alterations ... and the court has altered the documents in the last two days. That is unacceptable."

"We will not recognize the results of the cheating system of the electoral court," he added, declaring himself the rightful next president "by the decision of the people."

David Matamoros, president of the electoral court, acknowledged the computer outage but insisted there was no problem with the vote count from Sunday's election.

"There was a failure in the court's computing system, but not critical, and it is now functioning properly," he said in an interview with Channel 3.

Matamoros did not specify how long the outage lasted but said the final count would now be announced Thursday instead of Wednesday night as previously promised.

Hernandez, whose supporters already claimed victory on his behalf, called on all parties to be patient and await the official result "with calm and in peace." He also committed to respecting the result.

"We should wait and respect the final scrutiny as the law requires. I ask for celerity from the (electoral court) and prudence from the parties," he said on Twitter. "Honduras deserves it."

Nasralla offered no specific evidence of wrongdoing. Nonetheless he called on the 500 international election observers in Honduras to form a special commission to investigate, "or else Hernandez will steal the victory, and I won't tolerate it."

The challenger later said his political alliance would block roads in Honduras' main cities. Several roadblocks were quickly reported on several highways.

Earlier Wednesday, thousands of flag-waving opposition alliance supporters marched down two central boulevards in the capital Wednesday heading for the electoral court facilities where the vote count was under way.

Off The Wall

Stolen Ferrari trashed; man arrested after seeking gas money

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—A Southern California man suspected of stealing a $300,000 Ferrari was arrested after asking for gas money, authorities said.

Santa Ana police arrested Israel Perez Rangel on Nov. 1. He pleaded not guilty to car theft.

Authorities say the 458 Spider was brought into a Costa Mesa service center and stolen in October after a worker left the key on a passenger seat.

Security video showed a man in a Ferrari jacket walking onto the lot and taking it.

Santa Ana police Cpl. Anthony Bertagna said officers subsequently responded to a report of a Ferrari driving erratically and stopped at an intersection, and to another call that the driver was asking for gas money.

The exotic car was spotted at a gas station, where the driver ran off and was found and arrested behind bushes near a Holiday Inn, police said.

The Los Angeles Times says the car was trashed, with emblems torn from the body, cracked fins and a destroyed gearbox.

The Times said insurers paid the owner, who used the money to buy a 2018 Lamborghini Huracan.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Video leads to arrest in case of stolen mounted zebra head

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—An Alaska woman came home to find out a thief had broken in and stolen clothing, jewelry, prescription drugs and the mounted head of a zebra she had on a wall. Stacy Scott got good news Monday, however. A cab driver who helped a suspect drive off with the stolen goods, found the zebra head in his trunk and returned it. Scott tells Anchorage television station KTVA that she received the zebra head from a friend when she worked at a downtown boutique. She named the head "George." A security camera Friday recorded a woman carrying items, including George, out of Scott's home and into a waiting cab. Police arrested a 38-old woman at an Anchorage motel where the cab driver had taken her. The suspect is charged with felony burglary and theft.

New Jersey police try to trace source of loud banging noise

SAYREVILLE, N.J. (AP)—Police in New Jersey are trying to trace the source of a loud banging noise that's waking residents and causing dogs to bark. Sayreville police say they started to receive reports on Monday about noises coming from nearby South Amboy. Police initially thought a private company hired to control the geese population was responsible, but the Middlesex County Parks Department said that was not the case.

City closes dog park after complaints of excessive noise

SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP)—A Vermont city has shut down a recently opened dog park after complaints from a neighbor that the barking and yapping were making him "miserable." The Burlington Free Press reports that South Burlington decided to close Jaycee Park last week and create a committee to establish new standards before opening dog parks in residential areas. Mark Dickinson complained at a Nov. 6 council meeting that it's as if the park were in his backyard, saying his neighborhood suddenly had no peace and quiet. City Council member Meaghan Emery said the city wants to put more dog parks on city-owned property. She said there is a chance they may be able to find an alternate site for a park before the ground freezes for the winter.

Firefighters help rescue dog from tunnel dug by tortoise

CHANDLER, Ariz. (AP)—A dog wouldn't come out after chasing a cat into a tunnel dug by a giant tortoise in the back yard of a home in a Phoenix suburb, so homeowner Toby Passmore called for help. Chandler firefighters responded Wednesday with people and shovels and, with the help of a city backhoe, began unearthing the 6-foot-deep tunnel dug by Passmore's tortoise. That allowed Passmore to squirm head-first into the hole and see that his Scottish Schnauzer "was willfully inside the hole" where it had cornered the cat. With his ankles held by firefighters, Passmore was able to pull the dog out. It emerged dirty but unharmed. The rescuers left the hole open to allow the cat to leave when it felt safe.

Police stop car with massive Christmas tree on top

SUDBURY, Mass. (AP)—Police in a Massachusetts town are showing residents how not to transport their holiday trees. Sudbury police posted a picture Friday of a vehicle with a large tree on top of it. Almost the entire car appears to be hidden.

Police say an officer stopped the vehicle on Route 20 in the town, located about 25 miles (40 km) west of Boston. Police on Facebook reminded people to transport holiday trees "responsibly." It's unclear if the driver was cited. The department did not immediately respond to a request for additional details on Monday.

German women's clinic's incense therapy triggers fire alarm

BERLIN (AP)—A reported fire in a Hamburg basement turned out to be a false alarm after firefighters determined that the smell of burning came from an alternative therapy being used at a neighboring gynecological clinic. The fire department said Thursday they received a call at lunchtime Wednesday about a strong burning smell from the basement of a clothing store in the northern German city's St. Pauli district. When the crew of 16 firefighters arrived they also smelled the odor, but could not find a source in the basement. Upon further investigation they determined the smell came from an incense therapy for pregnant women in the neighboring gynecological clinic. Authorities didn't seem irked by the false alarm, saying "Who knows, maybe one or two of the kids will later join the fire department."

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE

MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on ***Tuesday, December 05, 2017 at 9:30AM*** at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of November 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
- A. PROJECT: ARCADIA PARTNERS dba GUALO RAI TOWNHOUSES
  Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-2018-X-017
  Proposal to construct eight 3-bedroom pre-fabricated townhouses with pools and landscaping on approximately 0.62 acres in Gualo Rai.
  1. Project Presentation
  2. Discussion & Review of Project
  3. CRM Permit Application Status Determination – Certification of Completeness

- B. PROJECT: AMERICAN SINOPAN, LLC dba SAIPAN GARDEN RESORT
  Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-2018-X-020
  Proposal to construct and operate ten 6-story hotel buildings with amenities with a total of 1,184 rooms with two hotel dining buildings, a main lobby, three swimming pools, and administrative building as well as two 6-story apartments with 180 units and club house and two 6-story staff housing buildings with 170 units and cafeteria and two restaurant buildings in addition to landscaping on 24.7 acres in Tanapag.
  1. Project Presentation
  2. Discussion & Review of Project
  3. CRM Permit Application Status Determination – Certification of Completeness

III. OTHER MATTERS
- A. CRM Regulatory Revision Update

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

Science & Technology

Apple issues a fix for Mac password security problem

Apple Inc. said an update was now available to fix a security issue in its latest Mac operating system that enables people to log in to Mac computers without knowing the password.

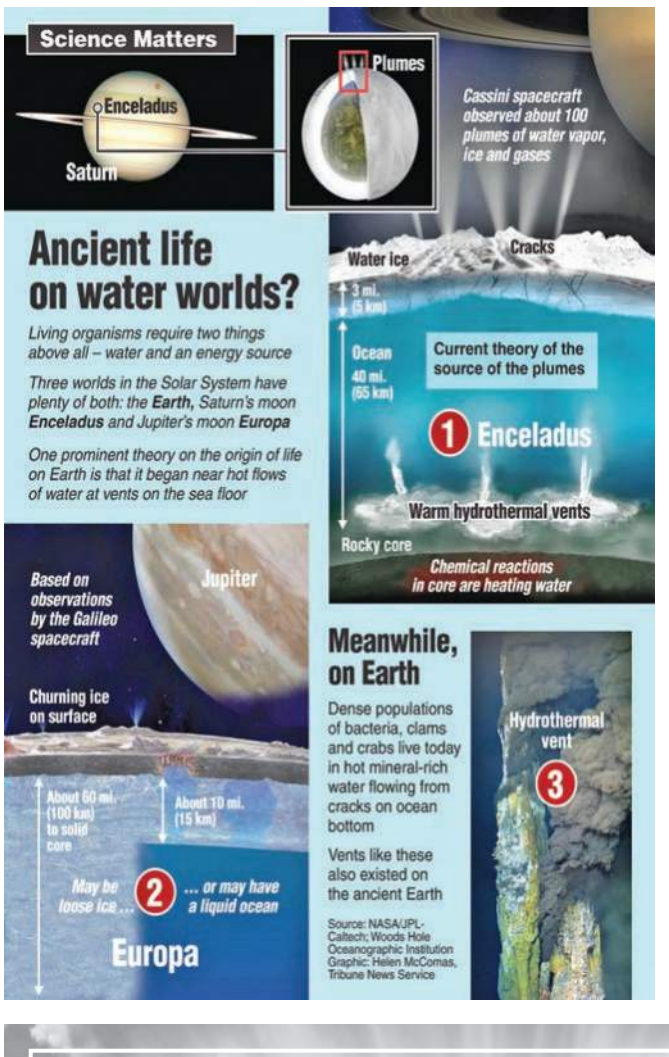
The Cupertino, Calif., tech giant said Wednesday that as of 8 a.m., the update was available for download and that later in the day it will be automatically installed on all systems running the latest version of MacOS High Sierra.

"Security is a top priority for every Apple product, and regrettably we stumbled with this release of MacOS," the company said in a statement. "We are auditing our development processes to help prevent this from happening again."

A software developer unaffiliated with Apple publicized the problem Tuesday, saying people could log in to Apple computers running MacOS High Sierra by entering the user name "root" and no password, then clicking the login button several times.

The "root" user account is generally used by computer administrators and gives "read and write privileges to more areas of the system, including files in other MacOS user accounts," according to Apple.

The issue had been described online previously, including in the Apple Developer Forum earlier this month, but received more attention after Lemi Ergin, a Turkish software developer, tweeted about it Tuesday, asking Apple if it was aware of the "huge security issue." ***(Los Angeles Times)***


Science Matters
Enceladus
Saturn
Plumes
Cassini spacecraft observed about 100 plumes of water vapor, ice and gases
Ancient life on water worlds?
Living organisms require two things above all – water and an energy source
Three worlds in the Solar System have plenty of both: the Earth, Saturn's moon Enceladus and Jupiter's moon Europa
One prominent theory on the origin of life on Earth is that it began near hot flows of water at vents on the sea floor
Water ice
Cracks
3 mi. (5 km)
Ocean
40 mi. (65 km)
Current theory of the source of the plumes
1 Enceladus
Warm hydrothermal vents
Rocky core
Chemical reactions in core are heating water
Based on observations by the Galileo spacecraft
Jupiter
Churning ice on surface
About 60 mi. (100 km) to solid core
About 10 mi. (15 km)
May be loose ice...
2
... or may have a liquid ocean
Europa
Meanwhile, on Earth
Dense populations of bacteria, clams and crabs live today in hot mineral-rich water flowing from cracks on ocean bottom
Vents like these also existed on the ancient Earth
Hydrothermal vent
3
Source: NASA/JPL-Caltech; Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Graphic: Helen McComas, Tribune News Service

Dealing with e-mail attacks and bogus hacks

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I've been receiving e-mails from addresses that consist of a series of letters and numbers, followed by the "@" symbol and a name that ends in "onmicrosoft.com." Are these harmful e-mails? I always move them to the spam folder, but is there a way to block them completely?

A: The messages are fake and potentially harmful. Spammers (people who send junk e-mail) often use e-mail addresses that have misspellings or extra letters attached to a familiar name, such as Microsoft.

While you can't block all spam, each time you send an e-mail to the spam folder you help your account's "spam filter" "learn" what kind of mail you consider to be junk. In the long run, that will mean fewer e-mails of that type will reach your inbox.

In addition, your e-mail provider, TDS Telecom, allows you to increase the sensitivity of your spam filter (see tinyurl.com/y8gtopp8) so it will stop more junk e-mail. But the more sensitive the filter is, the more likely it is to classify some legitimate e-mail as spam, so check the spam folder regularly to rescue the "good" e-mail.

Q: I recently got a pop-up message, apparently from Microsoft, that my PC had been compromised. It gave me a number to call before trying to use the PC again. I called, and the technician said my PC had been hacked, but that they could fix the problem and install security software if he took control of my PC. I let him take control, and paid $300. Was I scammed?

A: Yes, this is a common scam. Microsoft won't contact you via pop-up, or give you a number to call. But there's additional risk because you've relinquished control of your PC to a stranger, who may have stolen credit card numbers or passwords stored there, or left behind malware. If your PC contained card or password information, be on the alert for fraudulent credit card charges, and change the passwords. Also, run the free version of the Malwarebytes security program (see tinyurl.com/j32jr94) to find any harmful software on the PC.

20TH YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We the family of the late

Juliana Tudela Lizama

would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us in the daily mass of intention, as we commemorate the 20th death anniversary of our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Daily mass of intention will be offered at our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m. beginning Sunday, December 3, 2017 thru Sunday, December 10, 2017 and on the last day, Monday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m.

The Lizama Family
Antonio, Jesus, Juan, Ramon, Frank, Richard, Remy, Cecilia, Larry, Rudy, James, & Esther

In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Husband, Father, Son and Grandfather

†Jason Joseph Villagomez Wesley

Born: December 16, 1973 • Born to Eternal Life: November 24, 2017
Born in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands • Resided in Clifton, Virginia

Wife: Gina Lynn Sablan Wesley
Children:
Mercedes and Rhasheem Squirewell (Jacob, Rhasheem Jr, Lennox, Malia & Arianna);
Jesse Wesley;
Jason Jr. and Stephany Wesley;
Mandi Wesley.

Parents: Joseph D. and Barbara V. Wesley
Brothers:
Walter and Roselynn Wesley (Walter Jr, Augustine, Vincent, RayeAnn, Ryan, Joseph);
Timothy and Rowena Wesley (†Timothy Jr, Brandon, Aiden, Adam);
Manuel Wesley (AlanaJo).

Parents in Law:
Roque B. and †Margarita D. Matagolai
Brothers/Sisters in law:
Elmer and Marylynn Sablan (Kory/Christian Barcinas, Taylor John, Kiara, Kalea);
Marjorie and Lawrence Camacho (Roky, Keoni, Maka'i, Cecelea);
Roy and Elaine Matagolai (Cain/Yuriko Matagolai (Sasuke & Masashi), Kailene (Avery), Roy Jr, Dakota);
Deanna Matagolai (Ha'Ane, DonJason, Roque);
Rachel and Jose Gardner (Sanderson, Zachery, Haileigh, Jeremiah).

Jason was a humble man. Touched so many lives, was a second parent to the many godchildren, nieces and nephews. His bright smile lightens up a dark room. His presence is always noticeable primarily with his unique laugh, a family member described it as infectious smile and laugh. A great man in general, always putting others before him. Jason and his family relocated to Virginia and have since called this place home. He will be missed by the many who he had left imprints with family and work.

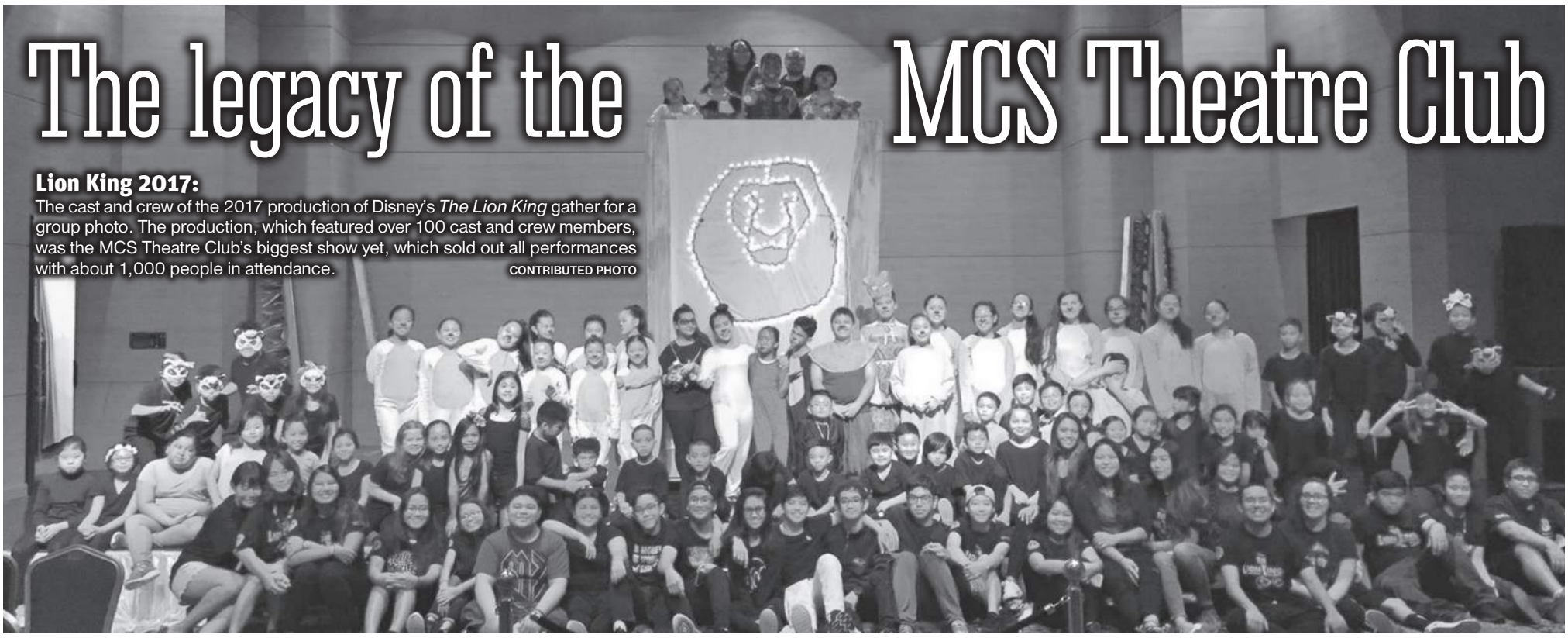
He will also be greatly missed by his numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends. Daily Eucharistic Celebration is being celebrated for the repose of his soul at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM at San Antonio Church, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

On Monday, December 4, 2017, viewing service will be held at the Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home from 10:00am-12:00pm. Mass of Intention will be held at 1:00pm at the St. Andrews in Clifton, Virginia, followed by Christian Burial at the Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home in Fairfax, Virginia.

Thank you for your presence, thoughts and prayers.
The Family

Life & Style

The legacy of the MCS Theatre Club



Lion King 2017:
The cast and crew of the 2017 production of Disney's *The Lion King* gather for a group photo. The production, which featured over 100 cast and crew members, was the MCS Theatre Club's biggest show yet, which sold out all performances with about 1,000 people in attendance. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For over two decades, Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club has engaged thousands of students in a wide array of productions, including numerous plays by William Shakespeare, quite a few Disney shows, several musicals, a number of original stories, two drama camps, and a growing catalog of short and feature-length films.

As the club prepares for its production of Disney's *Mulan Jr.* this weekend—the club's 46th production in 21 years—AlumKnights of the program take stock of what the club has meant to them over the years.

ANASTASIA SCHWEIGER BASHIOUM '13

Productions: *Winter's Tale* (December 2009), *A Comedy of Errors* (January 2011), *Rapunzeled* (December 2011), *Footloose* (January 2013)

Mount Carmel's Theater Club opened so many doors for me professionally. Even though I was only in four shows, that gave me enough experience to get a paid job working in 16 different plays throughout college. Thanks to Theatre Club, I have a strong work ethic, an innovative mind, and an ability to work well with a diverse group of people. Also, I met some of my best of friends through the club, and I'm happy that, years later, we are still friends today. I am also proud that my sister is keeping the spirit of theatre and the arts alive in our home community. I know her performance and role as Mulan will be an inspiration for many young girls that they can be whatever they aspire to be. Tessie already embodies the strength, confidence, and sass of Mulan, so I know that she will bring that to the stage and put on a memorable show.

BROC CALVO '08

Productions: *Romeo and Juliet* (May 2006), Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (December 2006), *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (December 2007), *Caesar* (May 2008)

MCS Theatre Club was one of the greatest experiences in my lifetime. I was nervous getting in front of large crowds before Theatre Club. That all changed after I first performed in *Romeo and Juliet*. The confidence I possess today can be attributed to the club and I am most grateful to MCS and Mr. G for making this all possible.

ETHEL CASTILLO '03

Productions: *Grease* (January 2000), *Cyrano de Bergerac* (May 2000), A *Midsummer Night's Dream* (May 2001), *Omega* (May 2002), *Stained* (February 2003), *Cinderella* (May 2003)

I would never trade my MCS theatre experiences for anything, and I will forever treasure the memories that I've shared with everyone I got to work with. The auditions, the rehearsals, the memorizations, blocking, etc. The MCS Theatre Club under Mr. G's mentorship taught me how to trust myself, be more confident, take constructive criticism. …It also taught me to live in the moment! To relish the moments on stage until the bright lights eventually dim and the curtain finally falls. I'm very proud to have been part of the MCS Theatre Club!

MATTHEW DELEON GUERRERO '07

Productions: *Taming of the Shrew* (May 2004), Anastasia (December 2005), *Romeo and Juliet* (May 2006)

My experience in the Theatre Club continues to be an important part of my life. The productions I was a part of have provided me with some of the best memories I have of my childhood and of high school. The performances themselves were only small part of the experience. The motivation to aim for some level of perfection in rehearsals, the friendships I was able to make with students of all grade levels, and the realization that, even in a small role, I could be a part of something larger and beautiful have all contributed in my life after high school.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Theresa Schweiger, left, plays the lead title character in the upcoming Mount Carmel School Theatre Club production of Disney's *Mulan Jr.*, which is being directed by Reica Ramirez, right.

VICTORIA CAMACHO DELEON GUERRERO '13

Productions: *Cinderella* (May 2003), *Anastasia* (December 2005), *Romeo & Juliet* (May 2006), Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (December 2006), *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (December 2007), *It's a Wonderful Life* (December 2008), *Winter's Tale* (December 2009), *A Comedy of Errors* (January 2011), *Zero to Hero* (May 2011), *Rapunzeled* (December 2011), *Footloose* (January 2013)

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club means so much to me because it was the space that I could be myself. For a long time I didn't know how to navigate through many social groups because I didn't feel like I belonged just to one. Throughout my education at MCS, Theatre Club was the place that I could be friends with everyone who stood out or didn't completely fit in. When I went on to Seattle University for my higher education, I didn't think I'd have the same love for my theatrical family until it still served as another home away from home.

ZENO DELEON GUERRERO '17

Productions: *A Comedy of Errors* (January 2011) *Zero to Hero* (May 2011), *Rapunzeled* (December 2011), *Dead Living* (October 2013), *Saipan Pride Rice* (November 2013), *12th Knight* (December 2013), Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (May 2014), *Shakespeare Meets Disney* (July 2014), *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* (October 2014), *The Snow Queen* (December 2014,) *The Breakfast Club* (November 2015), *White Christmas* (December 2015), *For Realz* (April 2016), *Star Wars Fanfilm Festival* (July 2016), *Dracula* (October 2016), Disney's *The Lion King Jr.* (December 2016), *#2ForRealz* (March 2017), *We Drank Our Tears Vol. 1* (September 2017)

It's been said too many times, though only because it's too true, but Theatre Club truly is home. Like many veterans, I first joined Theatre Club in grade school. At the time, it was just a place to have fun and was something extra to do after school. As I became involved in more productions and as I got older, theatre became a space that challenged me. It pushed me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to control my fear of public speaking. I learned valuable skills like projecting, enunciating, and others that I still use even today in college. Theatre became a place to be myself or even someone I wasn't—whether it be a floor manager, director, or a vampire. However, most of all, it was and still is home. The friends, or rather family, I've made there and grown to love will always have a special place in my heart. We've had our troubles—mostly shouting and complaining toward and about each other. But we've also had our triumphs—mostly producing amazing shows in seemingly impossible circumstances—all despite the drama that happens behind the scenes. After more than six years, Theatre Club has given me a lot: soft skills and networking, but more so memories and a home. But it's still giving by having me be a part of an ever-growing legacy, a family, of Knights who keep the spirit of Theatre Club strong and vibrant.

JAQUELINE BERNARDO-DOCTOR '16

Productions: *What's Going On* (May 2010), *Rapunzeled* (December 2011), *Dead Living* (October 2013), *Saipan Pride Rice* (November 2013), *12th Knight* (December 2013), Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (May 2014), *Shakespeare Meets Disney* (July 2014), Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (October 2014), *The Snow Queen* (December 2014), *The Breakfast Club* (November 2015), *White Christmas* (December 2015), *For Realz* (April 2016), *Dracula* (October 2016) Disney's *The Lion King Jr.* (December 2016), *#2ForRealz* (March 2017)

Mount Carmel's Theatre Club allowed me to develop my skills as a student-leader, and to form strong relationships within the MCS commu-

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MCS

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nity. As a stage manager for several productions, I was able to meet, interact, and communicate with students from various grade levels. As a result of our strengthened bonds, our Theatre Club eventually transformed into a family. It became a second home for me and many other students who fell in love with the arts.

BRIANNA HUNTER '17

Productions: *Rapunzeled* (December 2011), *Saipan Pride Rice* (November 2013), Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (May 2014), *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* (October 2014), *The Snow Queen* (December 2014), *The Breakfast Club* (November 2015), *White Christmas* (December 2015), *Dracula* (October 2016), Disney's The *Lion King Jr.* (December 2016), *#2ForRealz* (March 2017), Disney's *Mulan* (December 2017)

I am eternally grateful to Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club, which will also always have a place in my heart because I consider it to be my second family. Joining the Theatre Club program is the best decision I have ever made. Not only has it provided me with an outlet to express myself and break barriers that I have had socially, it has also allowed me to do something that makes people happy. Every production has a story, and it is always my hope that the stories we tell find a place in the audience's hearts. Theatre Club taught me how to be confident, that it takes teamwork to be successful, and most importantly, how to put yourself in someone else's shoes. Every moment that I've had in theatre is priceless, from dress rehearsals to being backstage during a production to having the ability to go on stage and entertain people. Theatre Club is a family that is always growing, and I'm always happy to know that there's a place for everyone.

ASAPMAR OGUMORO '01

Productions: *Much Ado About Nothing* (January 1998), *Macbeth* (May 1998), *White Christmas* (December 1998), *Legends of the Marianas* (May 1999), *Grease* (January 2000), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (May 2001)

What I appreciate and respect most about the productions were the life skills that emerge from participating: practice, teamwork, setting and reaching goals. What I loved about the productions was the excitement, fun and laughter, from practices to showtime!

JONATHAN PANGELINAN '16

Productions: *Winter's Tale* (December 2009) *What's Going On* (May 2010), *A Comedy of Errors* (January 2011), *Zero to Hero* (May 2011), *Rapunzeled* (December 2011), *Footloose* (January 2013), *12th Knight* (December 2013), Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (May 2014), *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* (October 2014), *The Snow Queen* (December 2014), *White Christmas* (December 2015)

The Mount Carmel School Theatre Club is such an amazing group. Every year, they put on such amazing productions and have managed to outdo themselves every single time. The club gives students all these great opportunities to share stories and celebrate creativity that no other club can manage to do. There is never a time when you're with the club that you feel left out or unimportant. Every single person has something to contribute, and the club does an excellent job of turning that into beautiful art. I've come to love my time with the club because it taught me to value everyone's uniqueness and appreciate stories that are not really emphasized in today's world. I've learned to recognize how rewarding it is to see something I work super hard on with people I love come to life. The connections I've made, the things I've accomplished, and the confidence I've gain in myself are all thanks in part to my time with the Mount Carmel Theatre Club.

AYSIA ADELE SANTOS '15

Productions: *Footloose* (January 2013), *Dead Living* (October 2013), *Saipan Pride Rice* (November 2013), *12th Knight* (December 2013), *Little Mermaid* (May 2014), *Shakespeare Meets Disney* (July 2014), *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* (October 2014), *Snow Queen* (December 2014), *For Realz* (April 2016), *#2ForRealz* (March 2017), *We Drank Our Tears Vol. 1* (September 2017), Disney's *Mulan Jr.* (December 2017)

No offense to any clubs but Theatre Club is the best club here at MCS! Theatre is a place where all ages can shine on and off the stage. It's the only place on campus that has a 1st grader working with a 12th grader. We treat everyone like family. Like a family, we all have our moments of crying or laughing. It felt like home whenever I walked into those doors. Because of Theatre Club, I gained a lot of friendships and now that I have graduated, I became a mentor for all students. It's a place where you can be who you are without being judged. Growing up, I'd always wonder what it was like to join theatre, then when I transferred to MCS, I finally got the chance to do it. Now, I can't imagine my life without it. We learn a lot of old and new things everyday, not just about theatre but also about life. What would I do for theatre? I am currently one of the advisors. I'll do anything to give back to a place I call home. Anything theatre involved, I support it 100 percent.

Cast members prepare to rehearse an ensemble number for the upcoming Mount Carmel School Theatre Club production of Disney's Mulan Jr.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MARKEL TOVES '16

Productions: *12th Knight* (December 2013), Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (May 2014), *Shakespeare Meets Disney* (July 2014), *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* (October 2014), *The Snow Queen* (December 2014), *The Breakfast Club* (November 2015), White Christmas (December 2015), *We Drank Our Tears Vol. 1* (September 2017)

MCS Theatre Club completely changed my perspective in school and life! I never found a much better way to meet people very much like me! Meeting many talented and diverse peers that immediately got me to feel a part of the production and club was the best thing in my opinion! To me it felt like the perfect way to be involved and connect with younger students and students my age but as well a great way to learn from and teach while working on a production! Personally, at the end of every play where everyone takes photos and congratulates each other with family coming together and kids playing around, it never gave me a more heartwarming feeling than I thought it would. In my experience in Mount Carmel School, many of my friends, peers, and fellow students played a big role in my journey through high school and my muse in chasing the life of an artist, inspired by the deep connection I made with everyone! I have fallen in love with the arts and acting! It was a big breakthrough in my life! Connecting with people and working together to perform art and telling many great historic stories with my peers have made nothing but a great mark in my high school career and my career as an actor! Nothing but love and support to the Club! ***(PR)***

Memories of molestation cloud girl's thoughts of the future

DEAR ABBY: I'm almost an adult now, starting to think about having children and a good marriage of my own. But I have a disturbing childhood memory I have never been able to erase.

When I was 6 or 7 and staying at my grandparents' house, and my grandmother would go outside to check the mail or water the flowers, my grandfather would try to put his hands on my private parts. He wouldn't speak a word to me EVER, even if she was around. In fact, I'm quite sure I never witnessed him say anything at all to anyone. But as soon as Grandma was out of sight, well, that was his chance to put his hands on me, then laugh when I tried to wiggle away.

Recently, after I remembered those episodes again, I tried to bring this up with my mom in order to get her support. Abby, she reacted as if there was something really wrong with ME or that I was lying!

Not surprisingly, I don't want that man around my future children. I have no real relationship with him. I know this memory isn't something I just imagined or made up "to embarrass the family." What should I do in reference to Mom's response?

MOVING ON FROM THE PAST

DEAR MOVING ON: In reference to your mother's response when you told her her father molested you when you were little, conclude that the same thing likely happened to her. You should also conclude that, if that's the case, she knew what he was capable of and did nothing to protect you. For that reason, your grandfather should not be allowed to be around your children—or any children, for that matter.

Because of the seriousness of what happened to you, it would be a good idea for you to contact R.A.I.N.N., the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network. Its website is rainn.org and the toll-free phone number is 800-656-4673.

DEAR ABBY: My elderly mother lost her husband and will be moving in with me. The problem is, Mom is one of those people for whom nothing is ever good enough. One of my siblings has already informed me that Mom told her my house, my neighborhood, my town, our hospitals, etc. are not good enough for her. I'm worried that after she moves in and I hear her complain every day, I'll lose my temper. Do you have any words of wisdom for me?

DREADING IT IN THE SOUTH

DEAR DREADING: I sure do. Ask your mother NOW, before she relocates, if what your sibling said is true. And if it is, do NOT let her move into your home.

DEAR ABBY: Is it rude for someone not to cash a check you have written to them within a certain time period? I think it is, but maybe I'm wrong. Because I keep track of my banking online and not in a traditional checkbook, I end up having to try to remember to adjust my available balance to include the check's amount. What do you think?

CHECK'S IN THE MAIL

DEAR C.I.T.M.: I agree that it's rude. When a canceled check does not show up -- sometimes for months -- it makes reconciling the giver's checkbook a pain in the neck and sometimes lower.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HOBBES, I'M NOT KIDDING. IF YOU DON'T GET ME LOOSE IN TEN SECONDS...
YOU GOT YOUR SELF INTO THIS, "MR. HOUDINI," NOT ME.
BUT I'M SUPPOSED TO BE AT DINNER! MOM'S GONNA KILL ME!
ESCAPE ARTISTS HAVE A RISKY TRADE. HEY, HERE'S MORSE CODE!
OK, I'M SORRY I CALLED YOU NAMES. I SAID I'M SORRY, RIGHT? NOW UNTIE ME!
HERE'S HOW YOU SAY "BANANA" IN MORSE. DASH DOT DOT DOT, DOT DASH...
WHAT IS THAT KID DOING?! IT SOUNDS LIKE A CHAIR THUMPING AROUND THE ROOM.
BONK. BONK.
WELL, HIS DINNER IS STONE COLD. I HOPE HE'S HAPPY.

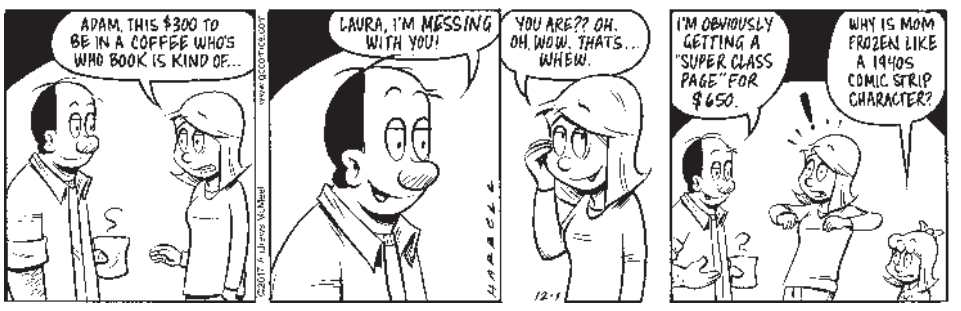
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WOW, JON...HOW DID YOU GET YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE TO STAND SO STRAIGHT?
OH, IT WASN'T HARD AT ALL, LIZ...NOT FOR ME, ANYWAY
IT JUST TOOK SOME BASIC STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
HE DUCT-TAPED IT TO A COAT RACK

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM, THIS $300 TO BE IN A COFFEE WHO'S WHO BOOK IS KIND OF...
LAURA, I'M MESSING WITH YOU!
YOU ARE?? OH. OH, WOW. THAT'S... WHEW.
I'M OBVIOUSLY GETTING A "SUPER CLASS PAGE" FOR $650.
WHY IS MOM FROZEN LIKE A 1940S COMIC STRIP CHARACTER?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

C'MON, GET UP. IT'S ALMOST NOON!
YOU'RE STILL IN BED, AND PEOPLE IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE JUST NOW GOING TO SLEEP ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GLOBE!
DANG! I WISH I LIVED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GLOBE!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

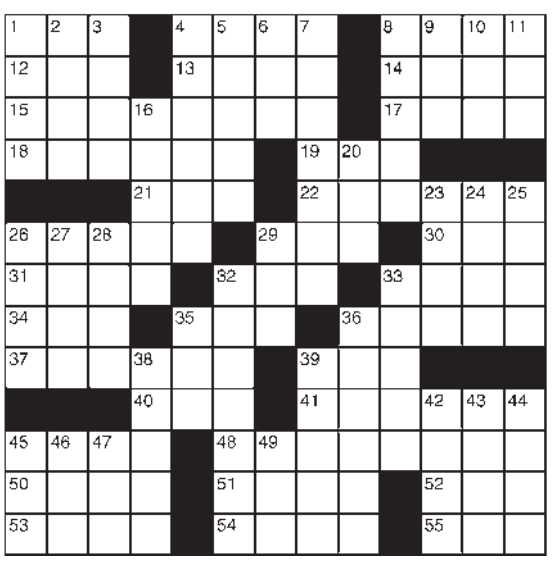
ACROSS
1 Agt.'s take
4 Attire
8 Quite
12 Debtor's letters
13 Classic theaters
14 Screenwriter James
15 Sniping remarks
17 High tennis shots
18 Daze
19 Ram's ma'am
21 Soul, to Sartre
22 Jacuzzi
26 Boutique
29 Fall from grace
30 Tramcar contents
31 Corn recipe
32 Peach center
33 Commotion
34 Half of bi-
35 Levy
36 Specter
37 Close by
39 Salt source
40 Mauna —
41 Claim
45 Meditative practice
48 Coexisted
50 Chess piece
51 Last write-up
52 Pester
53 Pump, e.g.
54 Boy, in Barcelona
55 Hog haven

DOWN
1 Gladys Knight's backup
2 Geezer
3 Ballet attire
4 "You Can't — Again"
5 Worship
6 Pensioned (Abbr.)
7 Single in a ballpark
8 Man's man
9 Id counterpart
10 Yank's foe
11 Thumbsup
16 Extra
20 Triumphed
23 Dorothy's dog
24 "The Haj" author
25 Ernie's "Sesame Street" pal
26 Whirled
27 Up —
28 Taking action
29 Half dozen
32 Ideal
33 "We — Overcome"
35 Eastern "way"
36 Italian ice cream
38 Bit of snow
39 Smooth fabric
42 Billions of years
43 Pesky insect
44 Like custard
45 Decade parts (Abbr.)
46 Reaction to fireworks
47 Stickum
49 Kimono sash

Solution time: 26 mins.

C	A	S	A		S	I	O	W		J	A	B
U	R	I	S		A	A	R	E		I		E
J	O	L	T	I	N	J	O	E		U	S	A
O	N	T	A	S	K			D	I	J	O	N
			N	O		P	E	S	O	I		
D	E	J	A		M	E	I		U	I	A	H
E	M	U			E	O	O			S	R	I
W	I	M	P		M	A	N		L	U	M	P
		E	A	C	O	N		T	O			
A	R	O	M	A			I	A	G	R	F	F
H	I	J			U	D	G	E	J	U	D	Y
O	D	E		U	N	D	O		A	L	E	E
Y	E	T		N	E	E	R		M	E	N	D

Yesterday's answer 12-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sarah Silverman, 47; Nestor Carbonell, 50; Bette Midler, 72; Woody Allen, 82.

Happy Birthday: Being too gregarious and sharing your ideas will lead to situations that will make you vulnerable when dealing with peers, friends and relatives. Being secretive and keeping people guessing will help pave the way for greater progress without interference. Trust in your ability to get things done on your own and you will be the one to reap the rewards. Your numbers are 3, 12, 19, 27, 36, 45, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't overreact. Remain calm and offer accurate information and intelligent solutions. Communication will help you mend troubled relationships with an old friend or sibling. Your willingness to listen and compromise will make a difference. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Spend time with the people who mean the most to you. Plan an outing that is geared toward sharing things you enjoy most. An opportunity to form a closer relationship with someone special looks promising. Express your feelings. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Do your best to live up to your responsibilities and to finish what you start. Someone will be eager to make you look bad if you aren't professional or willing to do your fair share. Stick to the truth and the facts. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* An opportunity to try something new will be offered if you attend a function, rally or fundraising event. The discussions you have or the ideas suggested will lead to a unique way of using your skills. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep your emotions out of the workplace. If someone upsets you, keep a poker face and take care of your responsibilities. Chances are someone is jealous of your charm and popularity. Aim to please and no one will undermine you. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Get involved in the things that interest you the most. Networking functions and business trips will pay off. Use your wits to convince others to try something you have to offer. Take advantage of a unique opportunity. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Domestic changes will bring about greater opportunities. Share your thoughts and feelings with someone you trust, and you will get sound advice. Money or a gift will come to you from an unexpected source. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Rely on your instincts to help you see situations clearly. Partnerships will lead to greater opportunities. An open and honest conversation will help you address any issues that have been bothering you. A change in lifestyle looks inviting. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Be responsible for your actions and stand tall when fighting for your beliefs. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you or make you feel bad. Use your intelligence to get your way. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* An opportunity to make positive changes to your living arrangements will be apparent. The time and energy you spend developing a creative strategy will help you save money. An interesting job posting will tempt you. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You'll face opposition if you try to make personal changes. An opportunity could turn out to be disappointing. Be careful when dealing with sensitive issues. Avoid overindulgence and unnecessary spending. Positive change should begin within. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* The way you handle money will make a difference to how you live in the future. A unique investment or savings plan will encourage you to stop spending and start preparing for your future. Money or a gift is heading your way.✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are likeable, thoughtful and playful. You are intelligent and curious.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1							3
			3		4		
		5		6		7	
	3		6		8		4
		4				1	
	1		4		2		9
		6		7		9	
			2		3		
2							8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	3	8	5	1	2	7	4	9
2	4	9	8	7	3	1	6	5
7	5	1	6	4	9	2	8	3
8	6	5	1	9	7	4	3	2
9	2	7	4	3	8	5	1	6
3	1	4	2	5	6	8	9	7
4	8	6	3	2	5	9	7	1
1	9	2	7	6	4	3	5	8
5	7	3	9	8	1	6	2	4

Difficulty level ★★★ 12/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

VINTAGE COMIC BOOKS Solution: 11 letters

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G	I	S	R	A	W	R	A	T	S	T	R	I	P	Y
D	H	N	O	O	T	R	A	C	P	A	N	E	L	S
E	P	O	H	S	H	A	D	O	W	W	G	L	O	A
E	A	O	S	X	S	A	I	L	A	R	A	N	G	D
P	R	L	A	T	M	R	Y	L	E	W	E	E	E	S
S	G	L	L	A	R	E	O	E	W	E	S	T	V	R
P	R	A	F	J	L	I	N	C	R	W	C	G	I	E
I	N	B	K	E	O	L	D	T	K	G	O	O	T	G
D	A	H	C	A	A	N	E	E	A	E	T	L	C	O
E	M	C	I	N	R	M	O	N	R	V	T	D	E	R
R	N	E	T	Ⓣ	Ⓗ	Ⓞ	Ⓡ	I	A	G	O	E	T	Y
M	O	E	Y	R	R	A	B	A	T	M	A	N	E	O
A	R	P	P	I	L	G	R	I	M	C	N	G	D	R
N	I	S	U	P	E	R	M	A	N	V	A	L	U	E

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Action, Ages, Alias, Allen, Barry, Batman, Cartoon, Collect, Detective, Flash, FunComics, Gag, Ghost Rider, Golden, Graphic, Green Lantern, Grey, Ironman, Jean, Marvel, Nova, Panels, Pilgrim, Robin, Rocketeer, Roy Rogers, Scott, Shadow, Speech Balloons, Speed, Spiderman, Star Wars, Strip, Superman, Thor, Tick, Value, Wally, West, X-Men

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Yankees interview Beltran for managerial post

NEW YORK (AP)—Exactly four weeks after winning his first World Series title on his final day as a major league player, Carlos Beltran walked into Yankee Stadium for his interview to become New York's manager.

"I never thought that this moment was going to come this soon after retirement," he said Wednesday. "I thought that I was going to be able to spend a little time with the family, but the fact that I got the call to be interviewed, this is something that you cannot turn away from it, because these type of opportunities, especially the one with the Yankees, they don't come very often."

The 40-year-old was a nine-time All-Star who hit 435 home runs over 20 big league seasons and spent half his career in New York)—including 2 1/2 years with the Yankees from 2014-16. Having interviewed five candidates earlier this month to replace Joe Girardi, New York general manager Brian Cashman called Beltran on Sunday.

"At the beginning it's a little bit overwhelming. There's a lot of information that you have to digest," Beltran said. "Being a player and being able to play this game for such a long time, I have seen a lot, and I have seen the importance of what players need in the clubhouse, especially this clubhouse, where you see a lot of younger guys."

Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner has said he is wary, but not opposed, to candidates with no previous managing or coaching experience. Beltran thinks becoming a designated hitter in the waning stage of his career was preparation for running a dugout.

He would hire a strong bench coach in the dugout to advise him.

"I got to see the game from a different view," he said. "I got to be actually like a players' coach in the clubhouse, being able to be active with the younger guys, being able to help them."

Houston players credited Beltran with a rousing postgame speech following the Game 5 loss to the Yankees in the AL Championship Series, which put New York ahead 3-2 in the best-of-seven matchup. The Astros returned home, swept the next two games and beat the Los Angeles Dodgers in a seven-game World Series for the first title in the history of the franchise, which started play in 1962.

"He's grown so much over the years, just in his expression and his ability to communicate, his willingness to communicate," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said last month. "He knows a lot about the game. I joke with him, he didn't teach me anything when we played together. He's teaching me more things now I'm managing him."

AP

In this undated photo, the New York Mets' Carlos Beltran runs to second base during a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies in New York.

Yankees bench coach Rob Thomson, former Cleveland and Seattle manager Eric Wedge, San Francisco bench coach Hensley Meulens, former big league third baseman Aaron Boone and Dodgers third base coach Chris Woodward previously interviewed.

Beltran prepared for his interview by asking Omar Minaya, the general manager who signed him for the New York Mets, what questions he should expect. Beltran cited Terry Collins as a manager he admired—Collins started with the Mets during Beltran's final season in Queens.

Like all manager candidates these days, Beltran venerated analytics.

"I have seen the Yankees really invest a lot of money in analytics and try to provide the players information that they could use to try to increase their careers," he said.

Focus more on how long Woods lasts than his score

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—One year later, the scene hadn't changed.

Jordan Spieth paused on the 17th green and looked across the water to the adjacent fairway at Albany Golf Club as Tiger Woods hit his shot to the ninth green, just like he did last year at the Hero World Challenge.

Curiosity is just as high over another return from injury for Woods and how he will fare after a long layoff.

What's different about the expectations for this comeback—his fifth since he first had back surgery in the spring of 2014—is they are more about how long Woods will last than what kind of scores he posts.

"He seems more confident this year the way he's walking and talking," Spieth said Wednesday in a whisper, having lost his voice to illness. "He seemed more excited at the Presidents Cup before he was even swinging, more anxious. And it seemed to really bother him that he was following doctor's orders, like he really wanted to get going. So once he was given the go, I think it was exciting for him.

"So we're all very interested, as we should be, in how it goes for him this week—and obviously, hoping that's the start."

The start of his latest comeback is Thursday against an 18-man field that features eight of the top nine players in the world. It's the first time every shot counts for Woods since a 77 in the Dubai Desert Classic on Feb. 3.

That was his seventh round in his return. He withdrew the next day, citing back spasms, and had a fourth back surgery in April to fuse two disks in his lower back. Woods reports some stiffness and not as much range in motion. But he says he has no pain.

The hype about this return has been fueled by friendly rounds over the last few weeks.

Justin Thomas, the PGA Tour player of the year who will be paired with Woods on Thursday, said fans will be "shocked at how good his game looks." Rickie Fowler made a casual reference to how far Woods was driving it past him. Brad Faxon, who played with Woods and Dustin Johnson last Friday in a round with President Donald Trump, said Woods looked at ease and held nothing back in his swing, especially with the driver.

Woods had to keep score in his pro-am round Wednesday, and that included a 2 on the 350-yard seventh hole when he drove the green with a breeze at his back and holed a 20-foot putt for eagle.

The tournament is unofficial, though it offers world ranking points. Woods is at No. 1,199 in the world, and even if he finishes last, he'll move up more than 200 spots into the top 1,000. That still seems odd for a guy who spent 683 weeks at No. 1 in the world.

What enthuses Woods is playing again.

"It's been a very long time, and I'm really looking forward to getting out there and playing with Justin and having a good time," Woods said.

After that, it will be time to reassess.

"I just really want to be able to complete this week, play all four days and give myself a chance on that back nine on Sunday to win this thing," said Woods, whose last victory was more than four years ago at Firestone in the Bridgestone Invitational.

He lasted only three starts when he came back from his first back surgery in the summer of 2014. He lasted two starts after he returned at the end of 2014, and then after playing all four majors in 2015, he had a pair of back surgeries. And when he returned from those last year in the Bahamas, he lasted only three events.

"My physio was certainly working overtime last year after every day and even in the morning, trying to get me ready to go," Woods said.

World Cup: Germany brimming with confidence

BERLIN (AP)—World champions Germany expect nothing less than a fifth World Cup triumph in Russia next year, with coach Joachim Loew pointing to an abundance of player choices as his main weapon.

The Germans are reaping the healthy rewards of their 15-year-old youth investment plan with more than three dozen high-calibre contenders vying for a place in Loew's World Cup squad.

His team no longer depends solely on a spine of 2014 World Cup winners such as Manuel Neuer, Toni Kroos, Mats Hummels, Sami Khedira and Thomas Mueller.

Having rested many of those stalwarts for next year's tournament, a second-string Germany oozed class as they won the Confederations Cup in July to stake claims for inclusion in the World Cup squad heading to Russia a year later.

With young guns, including Timo Werner, Joshua Kimmich, Emre Can and Leroy Sane earning regular starts along with players like Lars Stindl and Sandro Wagner, the Germans also recorded a perfect qualification campaign with 10 wins in as many games.

They have also notched a 21-game unbeaten run since their Euro 2016 semi-final defeat to France.

"Only we as world champions have something to lose in Russia," Loew said. "We have a very big goal and that is to defend the title."

Loew, in charge since 2006, had always wanted at least two equally skilled players for each position and he is guaranteed that wish for next year.

First choice keeper Neuer will be back from injury early next year but even without him, Loew has top options with Paris St Germain's Kevin Trapp and Barcelona's Marc Andre ter Stegen among others.

His backline is equally crowded with talent, with Joshua Kimmich quickly emerging as retired Philipp Lahm's successor in the rightback position, albeit with an attacking edge.

Germany's midfield reads like a "Who's Who" of top European football with a dozen players, including rising star Leon Goretzka as well as Ilkay Guendogan, back from injury, vying for half those spots.

The 21-year-old Werner will lead the attack with the striker having pushed past Mario Gomez in the pecking order, with seven goals in 10 internationals as Germany set out to become the first team to retain the title since Brazil in 1962.

Clutch Curry lifts Warriors vs Lakers in OT

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After struggling from long range all night, Stephen Curry hit two quick 3-pointers to open overtime and the Golden State Warriors outlasted the Los Angeles Lakers 127-123 on Wednesday.

The victory prevented the Warriors from losing two straight games for the first time this season.

Kevin Durant led Golden State with 29 points, while Curry added 28 and Klay Thompson 20. Curry had 13 points in overtime.

Brandon Ingram scored a career-high 32 to lead the Lakers. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Jordan Clarkson had 21 each, and Julius Randle scored 20.

Curry was 1 for 7 on 3-point attempts in regulation.

Los Angeles had a chance to win at the end of regulation when Randle rebounded Durant's miss with 5.3 seconds to play. The Lakers set up a play for Ingram, but he missed a driving 8-footer.

The Lakers trailed by 10 at the end of the first quarter, but charged back by shooting 71 percent in the second to take a 54-50 lead at halftime.

Coach Steve Kerr said he's not currently concerned about the team's occasionally passive play: "I think going to the Finals three years in a row and then trying to do it again a fourth time, you're just naturally not going to have quite as much of that killer instinct."

AP

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, center, battles for the ball against Los Angeles Lakers center Brook Lopez, right, and forward Larry Nance Jr. during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017, in Los Angeles. The Warriors won in overtime, 127-123.

Rockets 118, Pacers 97

In Houston, James Harden had 29 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds and the Houston Rockets rolled past the Indiana Pacers 118-97 on Wednesday night for their sixth straight victory.

Thaddeus Young cut the lead to 10 with a hook shot with about eight minutes left. The Rockets put it away with a 16-4 run that made it 110-88 with about four minutes left.

Trevor Ariza made a 3-pointer in that stretch and Ryan Anderson added two finished with 19 points.

The Pacers missed numerous shots, were called for defensive three seconds and committed an offensive foul to allow the Rockets to pad the lead.

Spurs 104, Grizzlies 95

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge set his San Antonio high with 41 points and the Spurs spoiled J.B. Bickerstaff's debut as Memphis coach, handing the Grizzlies their ninth straight loss.

Aldridge established a season best for the second consecutive game, topping his 33-point outing Monday against Dallas. Tony Parker had 10 points and five assists while playing 18 minutes in his second game back since undergoing surgery to repair a torn left quadriceps tendon.

San Antonio is the first NBA team with 10 home wins this season. It has won three in a row overall.

Magic 121, Thunder 108

In Orlando, Aaron Gordon had 40 points and 15 rebounds to help the Orlando Magic end a nine-game losing streak with a victory over struggling Oklahoma City.

Russell Westbrook hit five 3-pointers and scored 20 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter for the Thunder. He shot 7 for 10 on 3s and added 11 rebounds, five assists and five steals.

Oklahoma City lost for the fifth time in six games and dropped its seventh straight on the road.

Timberwolves 120, Pelicans 102

In New Orleans, Andrew Wiggins scored 28 points to help Minnesota beat New Orleans in a game that saw Pelicans forward Anthony Davis ejected for the first time in his career.

Jimmy Butler and Gorgui Dieng had 19 points each for the Timberwolves.

With Minnesota leading 45-43 in the second quarter, Davis was called for a technical foul. Fifteen seconds later, he picked up his second tech and was ejected.

Knicks 115, Heat 86

In New York, Enes Kanter had 22 points and 14 rebounds and New York beat Miami despite losing Kristaps Porzingis to a sprained right ankle after 2 1/2 minutes.

Back after missing three games with back spasms, Kanter had his way against a Heat team missing starting center Hassan Whiteside because of left knee soreness, going 7 of 9 from the field.

The Knicks lost all three games Kanter missed, their longest skid since starting 0-3, but shot 60 percent and led by as much as 30 points with their center back.

76ers 118, Wizards 113

In Philadelphia, Ben Simmons had 31 points and a career-high 18 rebounds and overcame a Hack-a-Shaq strategy, leading Philadelphia past Washington.

Joel Embiid had 25 points and 14 rebounds, and Dario Saric added 24 points to help the Sixers win for the sixth time in eight games. Kelly Oubre Jr. scored 22 points for the Wizards.

Washington nearly overcame a 22-point deficit in the fourth quarter and spent the final five minutes intentionally fouling Simmons, who entered the game shooting 56.6 percent.

Pistons 131, Suns 107

In Detroit, Reggie Jackson scored 23 points and Detroit beat Phoenix for its third straight victory.

Tobias Harris and Avery Bradley each scored 20 points, and Andre Drummond had 13 points and matched a career best with seven assists in Detroit's highest-scoring game of the season.

The Pistons improved to 14-6 overall, 8-2 at home in their first season at Little Caesars Arena, and 7-1 against the Western Conference.

Raptors 126, Hornets 113

In Toronto, Kyle Lowry scored a season-high 36 points, DeMar DeRozan had 30 and Toronto beat Charlotte to improve to 7-1 at home.

Lowry made career-high eight 3-pointers.

Dwight Howard had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Hornets.

Nets 109, Mavericks 104

In Dallas, DeMarre Carroll scored 15 of his 22 points in the third quarter to help Brooklyn beat Dallas.

Carroll put the Nets ahead for good at 78-76 on a 3-pointer with 2:03 remaining in the third quarter.

Trevor Booker had 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Spencer Dinwidde added 19 points for the Nets. Harrison Barnes had 17 points for Dallas, Maxi Kleber added a career-high 16, and Dwight Powell had 14.

‘The Crank’ learns lesson in second UFC fight

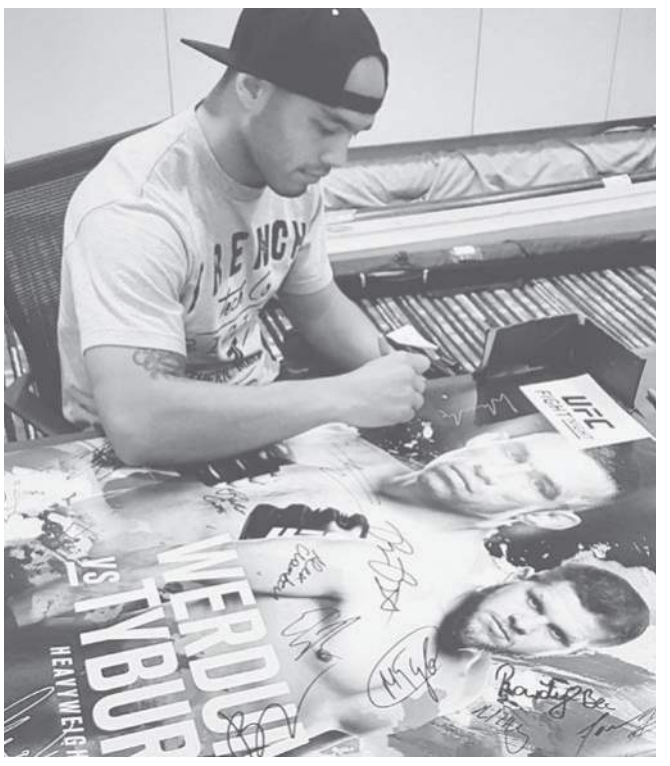
By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Frank “The Crank” Camacho is still learning despite being a professional mixed martial arts fighter for more than 10 years. His last fight against Australian Damien “Beatdown” Brown was no exception.

The 28-year-old Marianas bet still missed weight in his lightweight (155 lbs) bout by a mere 4 lbs even though Ultimate Fighting Championship organizers gave a 1-pound allowance to all fighters. Camacho weighed in at 160 lbs, making him ineligible for the $50,000 Fight of the Night bonus when he defeated Brown via split decision in UFC 121: Werdrum VS Tybura more than a week ago at the Qudos Bank Arena in Sydney, Australia.

“There’s a clause in the contract that if you missed the weight, you are not eligible for the bonus. It is what it is and it is a price that I have to pay. It is a huge lesson that I learned. I wasn’t really accounting for it, but $50,000 would have been a big help for me and my family. That could have helped us big time,” said Camacho.

“What happened was I cut water too early. Then the day before the weigh-in, I was trying to sweat to lose the 4 lbs, but the problem is I wasn’t sweating anymore. I was working my butt off for almost two hours,” said Camacho.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Frank “The Crank” Camacho signs posters of Ultimate Fighting Championship 121: Werdum VS Tybura in a pre-fight event in Sydney, Australia last month. He fought Australian Damien “Beatdown” Brown and won by split decision.

His situation was a cause of concern for members of Team “Crank” led by Cuki Alvarez, Steve Roberto, and Melchor Manibusan.

“They were concerned. I was in a really bad shape during the weigh-in that I was so close of not being able to fight,” Camacho said. “I was wearing the sauna suit, running outside, and doing everything but not even a single sweat. Like I was so drained and so sucked out that they thought I was already done for. It was bad on my part because I cut water too early so I don’t have any more water to lose.”

Lesson learned, Camacho said he plans to stay between 170 and 175 lbs when he is not fighting. The 170- to 175-lb target would make it easier for him to shed the extra pounds before he again climbs the octagon.

“I’m more comfortable fighting at 155. I got to eat what I want, but I need to eat healthy. I need to maintain 170 to 175 lbs. The experience in this fight [against Brown] is what I needed for the future of my [MMA] career.”

Camacho said his weight problems could be tied with the idyllic island lifestyle. “I’m just a big boy, a local boy. The food here is always good and I just need to be disciplined in what I eat. It sucks that it is only now that I’m just trying to realize this.”

“Now, I need to eat like an athlete. This is now my career, my job. I just need to eat like a pro. I didn’t eat properly the whole week before the fight. I was just eating nuts, almonds, and that’s it. Sometimes a little bit of chicken or fish. Imagine if I eat better and if I eat good. I would always be ready and in fighting weight before I fight,” he added.

VANUATU

From Page 44

from Dec. 5 to 7 at the Epauto Seventh-day Adventist Junior Secondary School.

“They are excited about competing at the Mini Games. This will be the highest competition for them so far. Their previous competition level was the Micronesian Games,” Davis said.

Santos, who weighs 61.2kg, had previously won gold and silver medals in separate off-island competitions in the men’s 62kg weight class. He ruled his weight division in the 2015 Micronesia Weightlifting Invitational in Guam with lifts of 100kg in snatch, 120kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 220kg. Under the Sinclair method, he had a final tally of 321.154kg.

San Nicolas went home with silver medals in the men’s 92kg weight division after lifting 95kg in the snatch, and 125kg in the clean and jerk for a total lift of 220kg and a Sinclair score of 253.095.

Santos also won silver medals in the same weight class in the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei with a total of lift of 215kg—92kg in the snatch, and 126kg in the clean and jerk. His best lifts were 110kg in the snatch, and 136kg in the clean and jerk, while San Nicolas each had 113kg and 139kg. Santos has lifted 190kg, while San Nicolas posted 184kg in a trial weightlifting tournament held last October.

The two weightlifters are the only CNMI athletes who will participate in the opening ceremony, as the Commonwealth’s men’s 3x3 team and track squad won’t be leaving Saipan until Dec. 7.

Pirates pound Blue Jays in SBL’s U25

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Nathan Camacho had a brilliant game for the Pirates as he pitched and batted his way to leading the Derron Flores-managed squad to a 12-1 thrashing of the Blue Jays in the Saipan Baseball League’s U25 division tiff last Tuesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Camacho pitched four innings of three-hit ball in lifting the Pirates to their fourth win in seven games.

He fanned seven batters and walked three, while giving up one earned run when Virgil Secharmidal, who singled and reached second on an error by T.J. Deleon Guerrero. Secharmidal then scored on a Blas Quimson single for the Blue Jays’ lone run at the bottom of the fourth inning. Pat Tenorio was the other Blue Jays player that had a hit against Camacho when the latter singled in the third but got stranded on base, with one out, after Russel Hocog struck out.

L.J. Sebaklim closed out for the Pirates and had a 1-2-3 inning. He forced Kyle Foreman to an infield fly and Pat Tenorio to a ground out to second baseman Jobe Reyes before striking out Hocog.

Camacho also went 2-for-3 at the plate with one run and two doubles, including a two-RBI double at the top of the fifth. Reyes scored three runs, going 3-for-3, while Franco Nakamura went 3-for-4 with three runs and one RBI.

In other results, the Boleros squeezed out a 9-8 win over the GSM Masters last Monday in the continuation of their Oct. 6 rained-out match.

The Boleros won their ninth straight match after also posting consecutive victories against the IPI Masters, 17-8, last Nov. 22 and the Papa Bears, 15-10, last Nov. 24.

The GSM Masters, before losing to the Boleros, won two consecutive games in last week’s resumption of action in the Masters. GSM crushed Saisei, 15-2, and edged the IPI Masters, 14-13, for a 4-5 record.

The IPI Masters dropped the match, no thanks to back-to-back throwing errors by Manny Villagomez and Joe Torres in the fifth as they try to stretch a double play. Bill Camacho, with two outs, got on base on a fielder’s choice and scored the winning run off a Tony Flores double.

SILENCER

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Black Mamba in the quarterfinals.

Ahead by only 1, 16-15, down to the last two minutes and change of the opening canto, the Silencer managed to widen the gap to 10, 26-16, after Kelvin Fitial knocked in two triples and Nestor Arreza and Amor Zapanta made a field goal apiece. Team Sawi’s lone point in the closing minutes of the first period came from Ehroll Peredo’s split free throw.

Team Sawi continued to struggle offensively, as it was held to a field goal in the first half of the second quarter, while the Silencer was on target, firing 13 points. Mike Esteros led that scoring surge, tallying 6 points, while Angelo Fernando added 5, and Fitial contributed 2.

Team Sawi then managed to hit back-to-back baskets in the ensuing plays, however that was nullified by Fernando’s two straight triples and another trey from Fitial for the Silencer’s biggest lead in the match, 46-22.

The Silencer was never threatened after that with Fitial showing no mercy, drilling easy baskets in the paint coupled with a few outside shots. The Silencer big man finished with a game-high 37 points and drew enough support from Fernando and Estores, who chipped in 17 and 12, respectively.

Peredo paced Team Sawi with his 21 markers, while Emerson Malaqui added 20. Brendon Talania also finished in twin digits, but his 13 points were a far cry from the 29 he made in their semis win over Black Mamba as he failed to get his offensive game going. J.R. Concepcion was another missing link on Team Sawi’s offense, recording only 7 points—from 20 in their semis victory.

Meanwhile, in the first game, Batang Bear Brand got off to a good start and then cashed in on its free throw shooting to foil White Haus’ comeback bid.

Batang Bear Brand built a 29-18 advantage after the first quarter, thanks to the combined 22 points of Jeff Che and Elmer Esdrelon. It then regained the double-digit lead in the third, 80-69, after White Haus forced a deadlock at the break, 50-50. Ron Gamboa stepped up in the penultimate quarter for Batang Bear Brand, scoring 14 points after being held to 2 in the first half.

Gamboa and company then kept their safe distance in the fourth quarter by making shots from the foul line. Batang Bear Brand’s last 11 markers were all made from the stripe with Esdrelon drilling 6 of them to finish with a game-high 42 points. Gamboa contributed 23, while Che and Hal Spott registered 21 and 17, respectively.

Darwin Barbo had 31 markers on a losing effort for White Haus.

First Game

Batang Bear Brand 112 — Esdrelon 42, Gamboa 23, Che 21, Spott 17, Achas 6, Ariar 3.

White Haus 102 — Barbo 31, Quizon 16, Tabora 15, Nonato 13, Mateo 11, Centina 6, Ocampo 6.

Scoring by quarters: 29-18, 50-50, 80-69, 112-102.

Second Game

Silencer 91 — Fitial 37, Fernando 17, Estores 12, Morales 8, Usi 7, Arreza 4, Zapata 2, Culala 2.

Team Sawi 74 — Peredo 21, Malaqui 20, Talania 13, Galulu 8, Concepcion 7, Ceralde 6.

Scoring by quarters: 26-16, 47-31, 66-45, 91-74.

CAROL

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Round of 8 opponent is No. 1 seed Jiaqi Wang, who drew a bye in the opening round. The other quarterfinal pairing at the top half of the draw will have No. 3 and China’s Zheng Hua Xiao battling the unseeded Fangran Tian. Xiao eased past compatriot Ruoyu Cheng, 6-2, 6-3, to move into the quarterfinals opposite Tian, who boosted out No. 8 Cong Ying Zhao, 7-5, 6-3.

The winner of the girls U18 singles draw will gain entry to next month’s Australian Open (junior division).

M-LEAGUE

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sa will face last placer Women’s National Team at 4pm with a finals berth at stake in their duel at the Koblerville Elementary School.

Matansa was undefeated in six games in the regular season, maintaining its clean slate after a 3-0 triumph (via forfeiture) over Korean Football Association on Saipan last Nov. 19.

KFAS played only three matches and won just once. The No. 3 KFAS will challenge No. 2 Shirley’s FC in the other semis game at 2pm, also at the Koblerville pitch. Shirley’s got two wins out of its four assignments before the playoffs, posting its last victory against the Women’s National Team, 5-2. Jack Phan powered Shirley’s past the Women’s National Team after firing a hat trick, while Hua Yan and Jedidiah Peteru scored the two other goals for the winning squad. Katrina Costales and Janelle Chognaki delivered the goals for the Women’s National Team, which was winless in five matches.

Steele, Ryu clinch boys U14 doubles title

HOM organizers call for public's cooperation

Organizers of the Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race are reminding motorists and pedestrians to take extra caution tomorrow morning as heavy bike traffic is expected during the event.

The race starts at 6am with riders to line up across the main entrance of the Mariana Resort & Spa. From Marianas Resort, bikers will pass through As Matuis, Suicide Cliff, Bird Island Lookout, Grotto, Banzai Cliff, Beach Road, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Koblerville, Airport Road, Papago, Kagman, Escos, Kingfisher, Isa Drive, As Terlaje, Middle Road, and back to Marianas Resort.

Some of the visiting professional riders have already arrived for the weekend race, with Alexandr Dorovskikh seen yesterday testing the light drizzle along Beach Road and Middle Road. Seven of the eight Hong Kong riders are also here, as they arrived last night via Hong Kong Express. Japanese duo Daisuke Kaneko and Yasue Nakahara have checked in, too.

The rest of the pros, including the entire Philippine team, will arrive today in time for the 3pm press conference at the Mariana Resort.

HOM organizers are asking motorists to drive carefully and slowly when they see riders passing through the entire race course to avoid accidents. ***(Jon Perez)***

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Richard Steele and Sam Ryu had a successful partnership as they won the boys U14 doubles championship in the 9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan court.

The No. 1 seed Steele and Ryu took the division title after sweeping No. 2 Daniel Kang and Andy Kim in the finals, 6-4, 6-2. The Top 2 seeds battled for the championship after Steele and Ryu prevailed against Chris Kim and Seung Won Lee in the first semis match, 6-0, 6-3, and Kang and Andy Kim topped Andrew Chung and Danny Lee in the other Final Four pairing, 6-2, 6-2. Chris Kim and Seung Won Lee settled for the third place honors following a 6-3, 6-3 triumph over Chung and Danny Lee in the consolation match.

Meanwhile, the adults singles, doubles, and mixed doubles events of the 9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic will begin today.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Richard Steele prepares to serve during his and Sam Ryu's semis game against Chris Kim and Seung Won Lee in the boys U14 doubles event of the 9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan court.

The anticipated men's open singles will feature eight players led by No. 1 seed Moris Villanueva and No. 2 Bobby Cruz. Villanueva will start his title defense today against Guam's Camden Camacho, while Cruz will take on Tony Kim. Other matches today will have Vincent Tudela meeting Ken Song and Robbie Schorr dueling Guam's Mason Caldwell.

Majority of the players entered in the men's open singles are also seeing action in the men's open doubles. Cruz is teaming up with Vilanueva and they will challenge Tony Kim and Song for a finals berth this Saturday. Caldwell will partner will his fellow Guam player Camacho and they will go up against Tudela and Steven Goodwin. The winner in the Caldwell-Camacho and Tudela-Goodwin tiff will collide against No. 1 seed Schorr and Peter Loken for the finals ticket at the upper half of the draw.

In the women's open doubles, there are only three pairs and they will compete in a round-robin format. Conatsu Kaga and Malika Miyawaki, Isabel Heras and Tania Tan, and Japan's Otobe Mizuyo and Chie Sato will battle for the division crown.

Other events to be played in the second and final week of the TanHoldings Tennis Classic are the men's 4.0 singles, doubles, and mixed doubles, mixed open doubles, men's over 60 singles and doubles, men's 3.0 singles, and women's 3.0 doubles.

M-League starts playoff round

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It's playoff time for the M-League with eight teams out to fight for survival this Sunday.

No. 3 Sun Palace will take on No. 6 Okadaya at 2pm at the Hopwood Middle School Field for one of the two remaining semis slots in Division A. No. 4 Kanoa Football Club and No. 5 Paire will then collide at 4pm for the last Final Four berth in the division. Winners of the pair of playoff matches at the Hopwood pitch will join TanHoldings and the Teen Ayuyus to the semifinals.

TanHoldings and the Teen Ayuyus automatically moved to the Final Four after finishing in the Top 2 in the elimination round. TanHoldings earned a perfect 5-0-0 win-draw-loss record in the regular season, keeping its unbeaten mark following a 2-0 victory over the Teen Ayuyus last Nov. 19. Martin Jambor and Joshua De Leon scored in TanHoldings' shutout win over the Teen Ayuyus, which wrapped up the elimination with a 5-0-1 slate.

Sun Palace was ranked third in Division A with its 4-0-1 mark, capping off the regular season with a 9-0 thrashing of MP United (1-0-5). Junsik Kim drilled four goals for Sun Palace, while Joe Miller contributed three, and Daniel Agulto chipped in two.

Okadaya, on the other hand, faltered in its last match before the playoffs, bowing to Kanoa. Rodwealth Espana nailed a pair of goals, while Owen Ji, Ruselle Zapanta, and Toby Jones scored one each for Kanoa, which ended the elimination with a 2-1-3 record. Odakaya drew its lone goal from Peter Oh and had only one win against five losses entering this Sunday's playoffs.

In Division B, No. 1 Matan-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Okadaya and Teen Ayuyus players wait for the corner kick during their Division A game in the elimination round of the M-League last month at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

GOLFERS GALORE
Players and organizers of the IT&E/IP&E 5th Annual Motion Golf Tournament pose for a photo at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort last Nov. 28.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Yankees interview Beltran for managerial post

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Clutch Curry lifts Warriors vs Lakers in OT

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Silencer vs BBB in finals

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Silencer's Angelo Fernando, right, takes off for a fastbreak layup during the second quarter of their semis game against Team Sawi in the IT&E-sponsored Ali'i Blue Haus caging last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Silencer and Batang Bear Brand eased their way to the finals of the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League after downing their respective opponents last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Batang Bear Brand took the first finals seat following a 112-102 victory over White Haus in the curtain-raiser, while the Silencer also earned a double-digit winning margin against Team Sawi, 91-74, to clinch the second and last slot to this Saturday's title match.

The Silencer gained control of the semis match late in the first quarter and then pulled away in the second to avoid the upset axe of Team Sawi, which stunned No. 3 seed

See SILENCER on Page 42

Carol survives scare

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior player Carol Lee was tested to her limits in her debut match in the Australian Open 2018 Asia-Pacific Wildcard Playoff Tournament in Zhuhai, China

Lee needed three sets to dispose of the unseeded Sheena Masuda-Karrasch of Hong Kong and advance to the quarterfinals of the 15-player field yesterday at the Zhuhai Hengqin International Tennis Centre in Guangdong Province. The No. 4 seed Commonwealth player dropped the closely fought opening set, 6-7 (5), but avoided an early exit when she pulled off a 7-5 triumph in the equally tough second. Then in the deciding third set, Lee still met strong resistance from Masuda-Karrasch before eking out another 7-5 victory.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee is in the quarterfinal round of the Australian Open 2018 Asia-Pacific Wildcard Playoff Tournament after surviving her first round foe yesterday in Zhuhai, China.

With the world No. 212 Lee surviving the Hong Kong bet, she arranged a Round of 8 duel against China's Zhuoma Ni Ma. The unranked and unseeded Ma recorded one of the three upsets in the opening round of the tournament after ousting world No. 324 and No. 7 seed Meiling Wang, 6-4, 6-2.

Qianhui Tang, another unranked player from China, registered the other surprised victory at the lower half of the draw following her 6-2, 6-1 win over world No. 228 and compatriot Keyi Zhou. Tang will now be pitted against world No. 153 and No. 2 seed Cody Wong, who eliminated China's Chengyiyi Yuan, 6-4, 6-3.

Cody's sister and No. 6 seed Jenny is also in the quarterfinals after sweeping China's Rouli Ye, 6-1, 6-2. Jenny's

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Weightlifters leave for Vanuatu tomorrow

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Two CNMI weightlifters will be leaving for an early flight tomorrow to begin their journey to Port Vila, Vanuatu in time for the Dec. 4 opening ceremony of the 10th Pacific Mini Games at the Korman Stadium.

Ray Santos and Angel San Nicolas will be representing the Commonwealth in the quadrennial sporting event and will be accompanied in Vanuatu by CNMI Weightlifting Federation board member Greg Borja. They are expected to join chef de mission Richard Sikkel and Northern Marians Sports Association president Michael White in the parade of nations during the opening ceremony of the Mini Games.

CWF president John Davis said both lifters trained hard in preparation for their competition, which will run

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ray Santos, seen in this file photo competing in the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei, is one of the two weightlifters who will represent the CNMI in the 10th Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu.